SATURDAY
May 6, 2023

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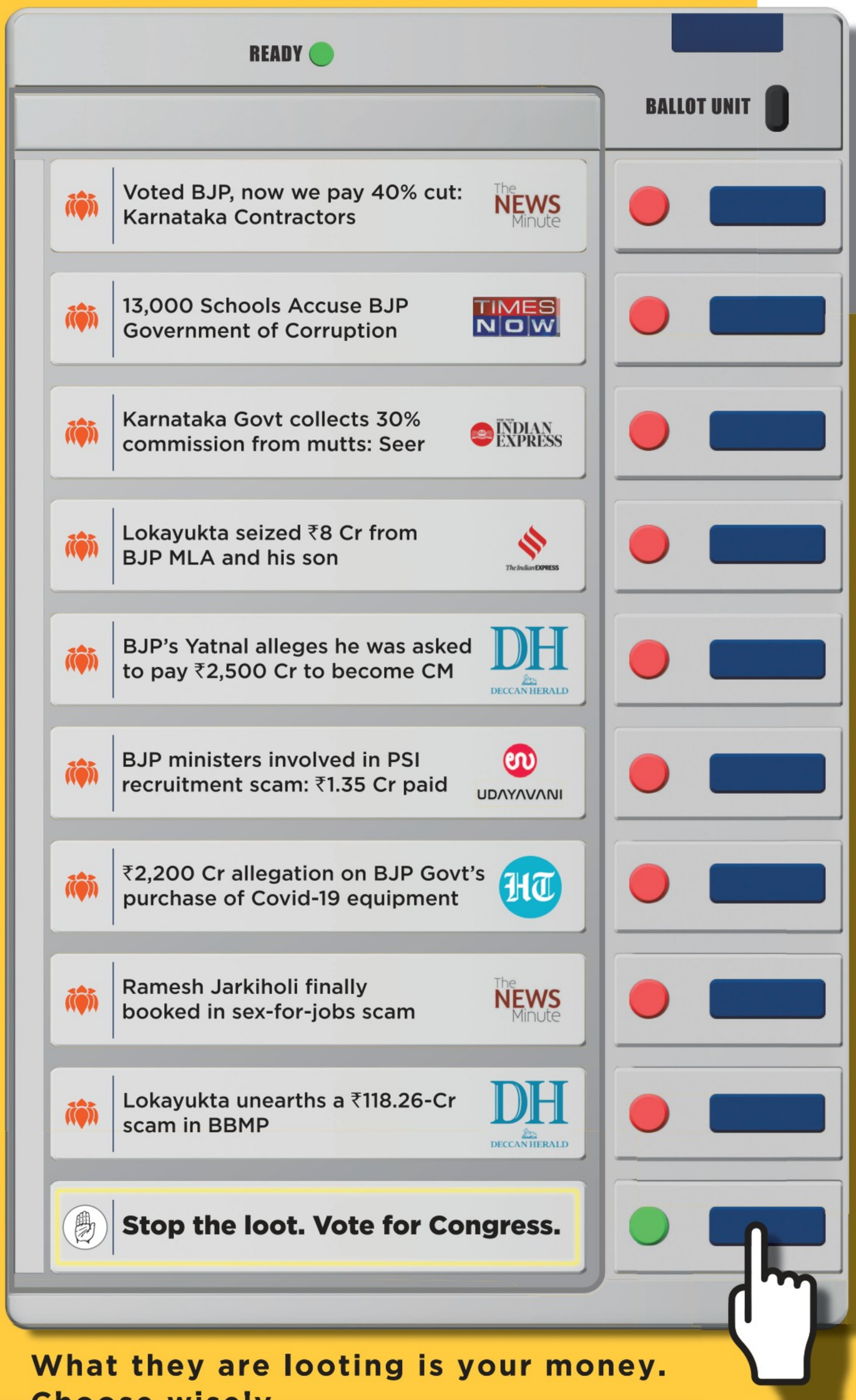
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This 40% Sarkara has looted over ₹1,50,000 Crores from the people of Karnataka in the last four years.

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J BG-BGE

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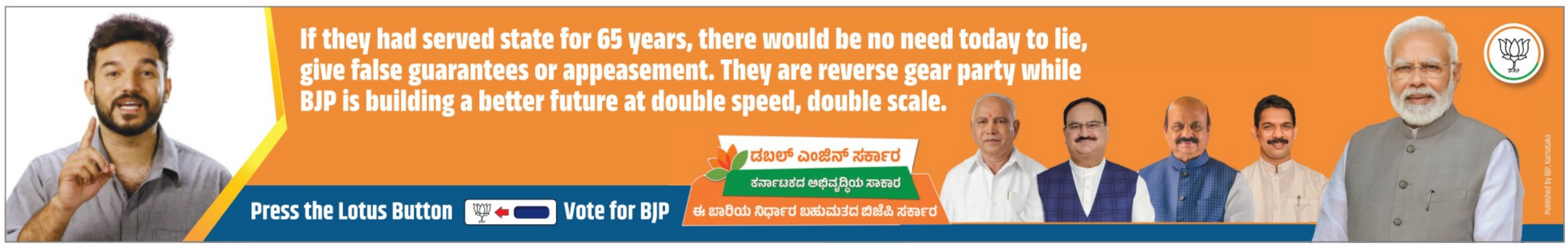
If they had served state for 65 years, there would be no need today to lie, give false guarantees or appeasement. They are reverse gear party while BJP is building a better future at double speed, double scale.
ಡಬಲ್ ಎಂಜಿನ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
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Press the Lotus Button
Vote for BJP
Published by BJP, Karnataka

WRESTLERS' AGITATION

The endurance athletes of Jantar Mantar

The protest against a powerful politician

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 9

KASHMIR OPERATION

5 soldiers killed in gunfight with militants in Rajouri

NEWS » PAGE 12

Pawar takes back decision to resign as NCP president

Abhinay Deshpande
Shoumojit Banerjee
MUMBAI/PUNE

Veteran leader Sharad Pawar on Friday took back his decision to resign as the Nationalist Congress Party's national president, stating that he respected the "strong sentiments" his decision had evoked among party cadre and leaders across the country.

Earlier in the day, a party committee set up to choose his replacement also unanimously rejected his decision.

The committee included Mr. Pawar's daughter and Member of Parliament from Baramati Supriya Sule, and nephew Ajit Pawar, Leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Central security forces flood crisis-hit Manipur

Manipur DGP claims the Centre has invoked Article 355 to address the State's security concerns; Ministry of Home Affairs denies doing so; defence forces say the situation is now under control

Rahul Karmakar
Vijaita Singh
GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI

The Centre has "taken over" control of security in violence-hit Manipur on Fridayby deploying 12 companies, comprising around 1,000 personnel, of the Border Security Force (BSF) and airlifting anti-riot vehicles to the northeastern State.

Around 3,200 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, as well as Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) teams have been deployed since Thursday.

"Article 355 is there so that Centre takes more attention on the affairs of the State and that is why the adviser has been sent," Manipur's Director-General of Police P. Doungel told journalists in capital Imphal.

Article 355 empowers the Centre to take all necessary steps to protect a State against internal disturbances and external aggression.

However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has denied invoking Article 355.

Mr. Doungel was referring to former CRPF chief Kuldiep Singh, who has been appointed as the security adviser to the Manipur government.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
ETHNIC QUAGMIRE
» PAGE 8

At least 10 people are believed to have been killed by mobs, while many villages were destroyed in the past few days. ANI

IAF performs sorties to watch over Manipur

GUWAHATI
The Indian Air Force has been undertaking continuous sorties from two airfields in Assam, with C-17 Globemaster and AN-32 aircraft, to keep a watch over Imphal and other crisis-hit areas of Manipur. » PAGE 11

Meghalaya moves to bring natives back home

GUWAHATI
The National People's Party-led Meghalaya government has organised special flights to bring back people stranded in Imphal, including 60 students and 25 members of Shillong's Lajong football team. » PG. 11

NEARBY

PM accuses Cong. of 'nurturing terrorism'

KALABURAGI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his election rally in Ballari on Friday accused the Congress of "nurturing terrorism to appease and safeguard its vote bank". » Page 6

Lingayat leaders meet religious heads in Hubballi

HUBBALLI
In a development that has the BJP worried, Veerashaiva Lingayat leaders and a few religious heads met at Moorusavir Mutt in Hubballi on Friday to discuss the issue of supporting Lingayat candidates in the Assembly elections.

» Page 6

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 4

Modi roadshow in city modified again due to NEET

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP has yet again modified its roadshow in Bengaluru featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this time to avoid inconvenience to students appearing for NEET on Sunday.

The Sunday roadshow was earlier scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and end at 1.30 p.m., covering a distance of about 26 km. The distance has now been cut short to 8 km, and it will be wrapped up at 11.30 a.m. The proposal to organise the roadshow till 1.30 p.m. had alarmed students as NEET is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

Announcing the changes at a press meet here on Friday, BJP's State election management committee convener Shobha Karandlaje said the roadshow on Sunday would now commence from Kempe Gowda statue in New Thippasandra at 10 a.m. and conclude at Trinity Circle on M.G. Road by 11 a.m. or 11.30 a.m.

The police have been instructed to help students reach their examination centres if they are stuck in traffic, she said. They would have to show their admit cards to take the help of the police.

But the Saturday roadshow will remain unaltered. It will commence at 10 a.m. from RBI ground and conclude at Sankey Tank in Malleswaram at 1.30 p.m.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 2

'India's decisions on J&K slammed the door shut on talks'

Suhasini Haidar
BENAULIM

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

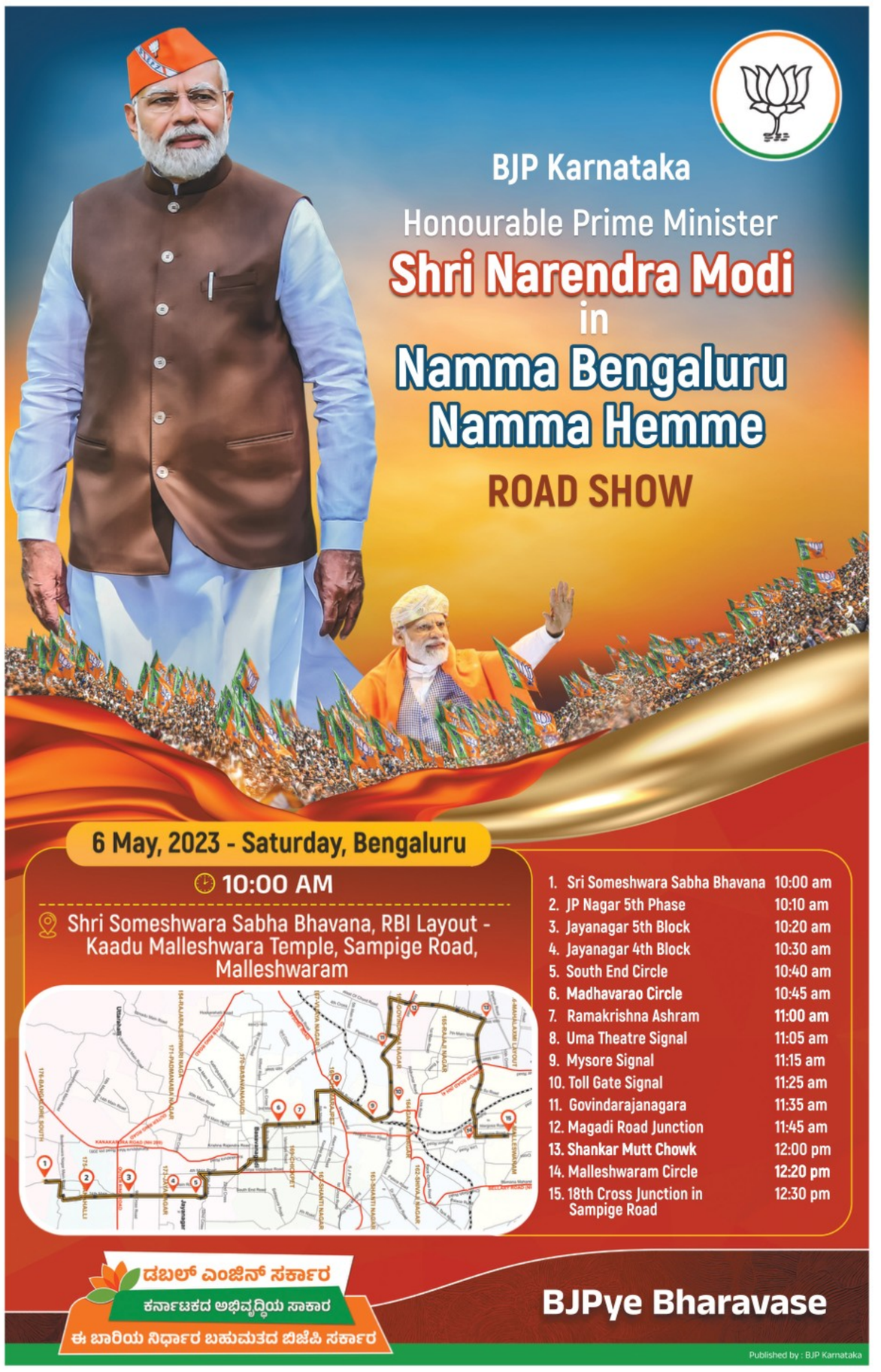
India's decision to reorganise Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019 has made it "difficult" for those in Pakistan who advocated engagement in the past, Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari told *The Hindu* on Friday.

The restoration of Statehood to J&K could be "one step", he said, adding that the action was the "only thing" holding up India-Pakistan talks. Hence, he had not requested any bilateral meeting with his host, Minister S. Jaishankar, he said, during his visit to Goa for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council for Foreign Ministers.

Mr. Bhutto also said no decision had been taken yet on whether Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would travel to India in July for the SCO summit.

"We would like India, the Indian government to create an environment conducive to talks and as soon as we return to the status quo of August 4, 2019, I believe we can engage in a meaningful dialogue," he clarified.

INTERVIEW ON
» PAGE 11


BJP Karnataka
Honourable Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi
in
Namma Bengaluru
Namma Hemme
ROAD SHOW
6 May, 2023 - Saturday, Bengaluru
10:00 AM
Shri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana, RBI Layout - Kaadu Malleshwara Temple, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram
1. Sri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana 10:00 am
2. JP Nagar 5th Phase 10:10 am
3. Jayanagar 5th Block 10:20 am
4. Jayanagar 4th Block 10:30 am
5. South End Circle 10:40 am
6. Madhavarao Circle 10:45 am
7. Ramakrishna Ashram 11:00 am
8. Uma Theatre Signal 11:05 am
9. Mysore Signal 11:15 am
10. Toll Gate Signal 11:25 am
11. Govindarajanagara 11:35 am
12. Magadi Road Junction 11:45 am
13. Shankar Mutt Chowk 12:00 pm
14. Malleshwaram Circle 12:20 pm
15. 18th Cross Junction in Sampige Road 12:30 pm
ಡಬಲ್ ಎಂಜಿನ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
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BJPye Bharavase
Published by : BJP Karnataka

HC declines to stop roadshows by political parties for poll campaigning

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that elections in India are treated as 'festive celebrations', the High Court of Karnataka on Friday declined to stop roadshows of the political parties, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two roadshows to be held in Bengaluru on Saturday and Sunday organised as part of the campaign for the Assembly elections.

"The elections in India are treated as festive celebrations. During the election process, right from the first general elections held in 1952, there are records to show that rallies of this kind were held ... The political rallies have some elements of dissemination of knowledge and information about the election process to the public at large ...," the court observed.

The court also took note of the data submitted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) stating that a total of 2,517 rallies/roadshows were permitted across the State since the election code of conduct came into force on March 29, and of these 371 rallies/roadshows have been allowed in Bengaluru city alone. A Vacation Bench comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice Vijaykumar A. Patil passed the order by closing a PIL petition filed by city-based advocate Amrutesh N.P. seeking a ban on the conduct of roadshows and rallies by political parties across the State, and Bengaluru city in particular, as part of their campaigning for the elections.

The court took up the hearing on the petition, filed on Friday morning, on an urgent basis at 2.30 p.m. on the plea made by the petitioner seeking a stay on Mr. Modi's two-day roadshow stating that it would disrupt life in the city. The petitioner had also sought the court's direction to restrict victory rallies post-declaration of election results.

Stating that it is for the Election Commission of India, the State government, and the police machinery to decide on the grant of permission for such rallies or roadshows, the Bench asked the authorities to take care of the interest of the public at large.

The stars align for resilient King Ding

The 30-year-old's path to becoming China's first male World chess champion was filled with both obstacles and miracles. Pushed to breaking point, he simply refused to yield. And when he saw his moment, he seized it by playing bravely to script history

> I remembered how Albert Camus talks about the concept of resistance. The idea is that if you see that you cannot win, do everything in your power to resist. And that memory gave me the determination I needed
> **DING**

FIDE

DING LIREN

P.K. Ajith Kumar

On a cold December afternoon at the Hyatt Regency hotel in New Delhi a couple of decades ago, Xie Jun was talking about the men's World Chess Championship. She had just won the women's.

"It would be great for Asian chess if [Viswanathan] Anand won the men's title," she told this correspondent. Less than a fortnight later, she got her wish: Anand, after getting through the first part of the knockout tournament in Delhi, won the final match in Tehran, crushing Alexei Shirov of Spain.

That was an epochal moment for chess. It was the first time an Asian won the men's World title. Xie had become the first Asian female World champion in 1991, ending the 64-year domination of Europe and the Soviet Union.

Interestingly, in these columns four weeks ago, while analysing the World Championship match between Ian Nepomniachtchi and Ding Liren, Anand had written that the crowning of the first Chinese male World champion, should it happen, could have a dramatic effect on the game.

And it was in dramatic fashion that Ding triumphed in the Kazakhstan capital, Astana. The score was 7-7 at the end of the 14 games of classical chess (the traditional format that offers a player plenty of time before making a move). That led to the tie-breakers.

First, there were to be four games of rapid chess (of considerably shorter duration than the classical variety). If the scores were still level, blitz chess – games of even shorter time control – would be played. It looked like the blitz games would be necessary: the first three rapid games were drawn, and it seemed the fourth would be, too.

> I thought I was addicted to chess, because sometimes without tournaments, I was not so happy. This match reflects the deepness of my soul
> **DING LIREN**

Ding could have easily settled for it. But, instead of opting for a line that would lead to a draw by repetition of moves, he played a bold move with his rook, in response to a check by Nepomniachtchi with the queen – a move Ding's predecessor Magnus Carlsen described as "self-pinning for immortality."

Ding was taking a risk. He clearly wanted to try for a win and thus clinch the title without entering the blitz games. That move, in itself, wasn't a winning one, by any stretch of the imagination, but it paved the way for, to borrow from Carlsen, Ding's immortality. Then Nepomniachtchi missed some moves that could have restored equality on the board.

But, then, Ding was destined to become the World champion. A series of incidents indicated as much.

First, he got a chance to play the Candidates tournament – the qualifier for the World title match – because Sergey Karjakin was banned by FIDE, the world chess governing body, for six months for supporting Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Karjakin, who unsuccessfully challenged Carlsen for the 2016 World championship, used to play for Ukraine until 2009.

But, in order to make it to the Candidates tournament, Ding had to play 28 rated classical games in a little over a month. Before that, because of China's Covid-induced travel restrictions, he was forced to miss the World Cup and the three-tournament FIDE Grand Prix series – events from which he could have qualified for the Candidates.

He finished second in the Candidates in Madrid only because of his win in the final round against Hikaru Nakamura. The tournament was won by Nepomniachtchi, who thus earned the right to challenge Carlsen for the World title for the second time in a row.

Then, Carlsen, the World champion since 2013, pulled out from the match, citing a lack of motivation. FIDE decided to go ahead with the World Championship and announced that the players that had finished first and second at the Candidates would be the contestants. So, from out of nowhere, Ding found himself in with a chance to become the 17th World chess champion.

Most experts, including Anand, had favoured Nepomniachtchi, not least because of the match experience he had gained against Carlsen. And it was the Russian who took the lead repeatedly.

In the classical matches, Ding had to come from behind three times. He showed tremendous fighting spirit. He refused to give up, and frustrated Nepomniachtchi, never allowing him to consolidate his lead.

It may not have been the greatest of World title matches in terms of quality – there were too many mistakes from both players – but it was undoubtedly one of the most exciting. Six of the 14 classical games produced decisive results. In 2018, all 12 games between Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana were drawn. Two years earlier, all but two of the 14 were draws.

With the massive spike in interest in chess, the 2023 contest would probably have been the most followed World title match in history. The fans would have loved it too, with all its twists and the fascinating climax.

Yes, Carlsen did cast an imposing shadow. "But that wasn't Ding's fault," Grandmaster R.B. Ramesh, one of India's most successful coaches, tells *The Hindu*. "We have to accept Ding as the World champion and Carlsen as the world's best player. I don't think Carlsen would be coming back to the World Championship cycle in the current format."

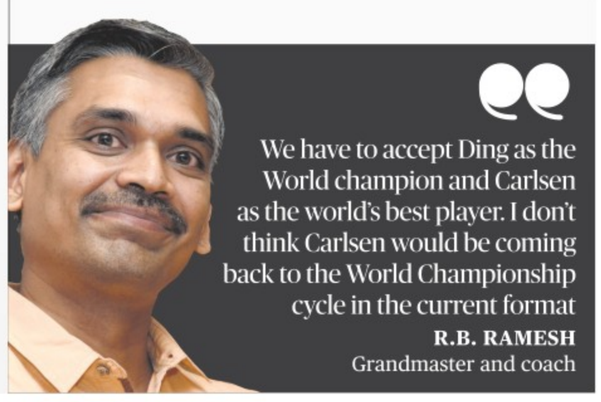
The moment, at any rate, belongs to Ding. There is, to his ascent to the throne of world chess, a certain romance. Not just because of all those circumstances, but also because of him being the first ever male World champion from China – the world's most populous country until it was overtaken by India a fortnight ago – where chess was banned during China's Cultural Revolution (1966 to 1976).

Ding's generation – the golden one in Chinese chess – came after the Big Dragon Project that was launched to raise the level of the game in the country to global standards. He played a key role in making China a powerhouse in international chess.

Ding's peak rating (2816) is the 10th (joint) highest of all time. He is only 30. He could get even better.

After his greatest moment, he revealed how he came back into the match. "I remembered how [writer] Albert Camus talks about the concept of resistance," he said in an interview with *El Pais*. "The idea is that if you see that you cannot win, do everything in your power to resist. And that memory gave me the determination I needed."

That determination would give Ding beautiful memories for a lifetime.



> We have to accept Ding as the World champion and Carlsen as the world's best player. I don't think Carlsen would be coming back to the World Championship cycle in the current format
> **R.B. RAMESH**
> Grandmaster and coach

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	35	7,135	16
2	Carlos Alcaraz	19	6,770	17
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	5,240	24
4	Casper Ruud	24	5,210	25
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	5,195	21
6	Andrey Rublev	25	4,280	25
7	Holger Rune	19	4,070	26
8	Jannik Sinner	21	3,615	21
9	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	3,405	24
10	Taylor Fritz	25	3,290	23
11	Frances Tiafoe	25	2,870	23
12	Karen Khachanov	26	2,855	23
13	Cameron Norrie	27	2,725	23
14	Rafael Nadal	36	2,715	14
15	Hubert Hurkacz	26	2,660	23

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 347 ▲ 19 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 381 ▼ 1 spot

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	21	8,975	17
2	Aryna Sabalenka	24	6,891	18
3	Jessica Pegula	29	5,735	17
4	Ons Jabeur	28	5,116	16
5	Caroline Garcia	29	5,030	24
6	Coco Gauff	19	4,400	18
7	Elena Rybakina	23	4,305	21
8	Daria Kasatkina	25	3,505	25
9	Maria Sakkari	27	3,191	23
10	Petra Kvitova	33	3,162	16
11	Belinda Bencic	26	2,870	21
12	Barbora Krejcikova	27	2,497	20
13	Veronika Kudermetova	26	2,280	22
14	Beatriz Haddad Maia	26	2,276	25
15	Karolina Pliskova	31	2,255	23

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 224 ▼ 3 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 278 ▼ 3 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Man. City	33	25	4	4	87	30	57	79
2	Arsenal	34	24	6	4	81	39	42	78
3	Newcastle	33	18	11	4	61	27	34	65
4	Man. United	33	19	6	8	49	40	9	63
5	Liverpool	34	17	8	9	66	42	24	59
6	Brighton	32	16	7	9	62	40	22	55
7	Tottenham	34	16	6	12	63	57	6	54
8	Aston Villa	34	16	6	12	46	42	4	54
9	Brentford	34	12	14	8	52	44	8	50
10	Fulham	34	13	6	15	45	46	-1	45
11	C. Palace	34	10	10	14	35	45	-10	40
12	Chelsea	33	10	9	14	31	38	-7	39
13	Bournemouth	34	11	6	17	36	64	-28	39
14	Wolves	34	10	7	17	29	50	-21	37
15	West Ham	34	9	7	18	37	50	-13	34
16	Leicester City	34	8	6	20	46	59	-13	30
17	Leeds United	34	7	9	18	43	67	-24	30
18	Nott. Forest	34	7	9	18	30	62	-32	30
19	Everton	34	6	11	17	27	52	-25	29
20	Southampton	34	6	6	22	28	60	-32	24

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	33	26	4	3	60	11	49	82
2	Atletico Madrid	33	21	6	6	60	26	34	69
3	Real Madrid	33	21	5	7	69	32	37	68
4	Real Sociedad	33	18	7	8	43	29	14	61
5	Villarreal	33	16	6	11	47	34	13	54
6	Real Betis	33	15	7	11	40	37	3	52
7	Girona	33	13	8	12	52	46	6	47
8	Athletic Bilbao	33	13	8	12	43	33	10	47
9	Rayo Vallecano	33	12	10	11	40	42	-2	46
10	Osasuna	33	12	8	13	29	35	-6	44
11	Sevilla	33	12	8	13	41	49	-8	44
12	Real Mallorca	33	11	8	14	32	37	-5	41
13	Celta Vigo	33	10	9	14	38	46	-8	39
14	Almeria	33	10	6	17	42	58	-16	36
15	Cadiz	33	8	11	14	26	49	-23	35
16	Real Valladolid	33	10	5	18	30	57	-27	35
17	Valencia	33	9	7	17	36	40	-4	34
18	Getafe	33	8	10	15	30	42	-12	34
19	Espanyol	33	7	10	16	40	56	-16	31
20	Elche	33	3	7	23	25	64	-39	16

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	33	25	5	3	69	23	46	80
2	Lazio	33	19	7	7	52	24	28	64
3	Juventus	33	19	6	8	50	28	22	63
4	Inter Milan	33	19	3	11	60	35	25	60
5	Atalanta	33	17	7	9	56	39	17	58
6	AC Milan	33	16	10	7	53	39	14	58
7	Roma	33	17	7	9	45	31	14	58
8	Fiorentina	33	12	10	11	45	39	6	46
9	Bologna	33	12	9	12	42	43	-1	45
10	Monza	33	12	9	12	41	44	-3	45
11	Torino	33	12	9	12	35	38	-3	45
12	Udinese	33	10	13	10	43	41	2	43
13	Sassuolo	33	12	7	14	40	49	-9	43
14	Salernitana	33	7	14	12	41	54	-13	35
15	Empoli	33	8	11	14	29	43	-14	35
16	Lecce	33	7	10	16	28	40	-12	31
17	Spezia	33	5	12	16	28	54	-26	27
18	Verona	33	6	9	18	27	51	-24	27
19	Cremonese	33	3	12	18	29	59	-30	21
20	Sampdoria	33	3	8	22	20	59	-39	17

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	30	18	8	4	81	33	48	62
2	Dortmund	30	19	4	7	67	40	27	61
3	Union Berlin	30	16	8	6	44	31	13	56
4	SC Freiburg	30	16	8	6	46	37	9	56
5	RB Leipzig	30	16	6	8	54	37	17	54
6	Leverkusen	30	14	6	10	53	41	12	48
7	Wolfsburg	30	12	10	8	54	37	17	46
8	Mainz	30	12	9	9	49	43	6	45
9	Eint. Frankfurt	30	11	10	9	50	46	4	43
10	M'gladbach	30	9	9	12	44	48	-4	36
11	Cologne	30	8	11	11	40	48	-8	35
12	Werder Bremen	30	10	5	15	48	58	-10	35
13	FC Augsburg	30	8	7	15	39	55	-16	31
14	Hoffenheim	30	8	5	17	39	51	-12	29
15	Stuttgart	30	6	10	14	38	52	-14	28
16	Bochum	30	8	4	18	33	67	-34	28
17	Schalke	30	6	9	15	28	57	-29	27
18	Hertha Berlin	30	5	7	18	35	61	-26	22

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Marnus Labuschagne	915	937
2	Kane Williamson	883	919
3	Steve Smith	872	947
4	Joe Root	871	923
5	Babar Azam	862	882
6	Travis Head	853	853
7	Usman Khawaja	815	815
8	Daryl Mitchell	792	800
9	Dimuth Karunaratne	783	783
10	Rishabh Pant	766	801

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	869	904
2	James Anderson	859	903
3	Pat Cummins	841	914
4	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
5	Shaheen Afridi	787	836
6	Ollie Robinson	785	820
7	Jasprit Bumrah	780	835
8	Nathan Lyon	757	774
9	Ravindra Jadeja	753	899
10	Kyle Jamieson	742	836

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	887	898
2	Fakhar Zaman	784	784
3	Rassie van der Dussen	777	796
4	Shubman Gill	738	738
5	Imam-ul-Haq	737	815
6	David Warner	726	880
7	Virat Kohli	719	911
7	Quinton de Kock	718	813
9	Rohit Sharma	707	885
10	Steve Smith	702	752

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Josh Hazlewood	705	733
2	Mohammed Siraj	691	736
3	Mitchell Starc	686	783
4	Trent Boult	680	775
5	Matt Henry	666	691
6	Rashid Khan	659	806
7	Adam Zampa	652	655
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	637	712
9	Shakib Al Hasan	636	717
10	Shaheen Afridi	632	688

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	906	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	811	875
3	Babar Azam	756	896
4	Aiden Markram	748	796
5	Rilee Rossouw	724	724
6	Muhammad Waseem	716	716
7	Devon Conway	709	831
8	Dawid Malan	705	915
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Jos Buttler	670	674

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	816
2	Fazalhaq Farooqi	692	692
3	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	686	797
5	Maheesh Theekshana	684	684
5	Adil Rashid	684	746
7	Adam Zampa	678	743
8	Sam Curran	673	688
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	668	745
10	Anrich Nortje	667	695

Karnataka Contractors' Association to remind PM of State BJP's '40% cut'

Bengaluru: In an embarrassing development for Karnataka's ruling BJP, the State Contractors' Association has decided to write a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi reminding him about his promise to act on corruption. The Association had written a letter to the Prime Minister, alleging rampant corruption in the BJP government earlier as ministers and MLAs of ruling party were taking 40 per cent commission in all contracts given by the government.

It said that even after many months, PM Modi has not initiated any action in this regard and it has decided to write a letter again and remind him about the charges that have been made earlier against the ruling party. Kempanna, the President of the State Contractors' Association, has stated that it is over 3 months since the letter was written to PM Modi.

"On Aug 15, PM Modi announced to get this country rid of corruption. The Association is going to convey to PM Modi to fix the issue of corruption in BJP-ruled states first as we are ready to provide evidence for it," he stated.

> **Over Rs 22,000 Cr due from Karnataka Government.**

Kempanna questioned why PM Modi is silent towards huge corrupt practices in Karnataka, alleging that the PWD, Health and Family Welfare, Irrigation, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and other Departments' bills are passed for contractors only after payment to the ministers and officers concerned. He stated that the Association, in its letter to the PM, will provide details along with evidence about corruption. PM should at least now initiate action, Kempanna said.

Karnataka Govt collects 30% commission from mutts: Seer

Bagalkot/Bengaluru: Within a week of civil contractor Santosh Patil committing suicide after accusing then Rural Development and Panchayat Raj minister KS Eshwarappa's associates of demanding a commission to release funds, a Veerashaiva Lingayat seer from North Karnataka accused the state government of demanding a 30 per cent commission to release grants to mutts.

The allegation by the seer, Balehosur Mutt pontiff Dingaleshwara Swami, gave fresh ammo to opposition parties to corner the government on corruption charges, while Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said a thorough probe will be conducted if the seer provides details.

"The government demands a 30 per cent commission to release the grants sanctioned to mutts or temples. Officers not only openly communicate with mutts about the commission, but also make it clear that the work will be carried out only if the commission is given," the seer told TNIE on Monday.

"It is disappointing that corruption has reached new heights in the state. The MLAs have reached such levels that they decide the commission even before the project is officially announced. It is not just my statement, but that of people too. I will stand by my words," he said. He first made the allegation while addressing farmers on Sunday during the valedictory ceremony of Sankalp Yatra, organised by Congress veteran SR Patil, at Badagandi village near Bagalkot.

Responding to the charges, Bommai said a thorough probe will be conducted if the Swamiji provides details. "Dingaleshwara Swamiji is a revered seer and it is not enough if he just gives a statement. If he can provide details as to who demanded the commission, to whom it was paid, and all the related details, then I will ensure a thorough probe," Bommai said.

Govt giving 10% discount to mutts, quips MB Patil

Lashing out at the government, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee Campaign Committee chairman and MLA MB Patil said, "The government proudly claims that they have sanctioned grants for the development of mutts, but on the other side they demand 30 per cent commission for every project from mutts."

Addressing the media at Chikkodi, he said, "The only difference between contractors and mutts is that the government is giving a 10 per cent discount to the mutts, while contractors have to pay a 40 per cent commission. The pontiff is not levelling false allegations against the government. The corruption is at its peak in the state."

Karnataka BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal alleges he was asked to pay Rs 2,500 crore to become CM

Belagavi: Former Union minister Basangouda Patil Yatnal, the BJP MLA from Vijayapura, stirred yet another controversy by stating that he was asked to arrange Rs 2,500 crore to become a chief minister. He said some leaders from New Delhi met him and gave him the offer, Yatnal said while addressing a programme at Ramdurg on Friday.

Yatnal said he was stunned when he was asked to shell out Rs 2,500 crore to become a chief minister. "I have worked as Union minister under a tall leader like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and was closely associated with leaders like LK Advani, Rajnath Singh and Arun Jaitley. Despite knowing my profile, they asked me to arrange Rs 2,500 crore for the chief minister's post," he added.

Later, Yatnal hit out at former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, saying the latter did not induct him into the cabinet fearing that it would affect the prospects of his son Vijayendra. "I had told Yediyurappa then that I will not enter his chamber or go to Kaveri (the CM's residence) till he remained chief minister. Later, Basavaraj Bommai asked me to meet him when he became the CM. In a closed-door discussion, Bommai admitted that he became CM only because of me (Yatnal)," he added. Yatnal said that though Bommai assured him of a cabinet berth, he refused.

Karnataka Minister KS Eshwarappa booked in contractor's suicide case

Bengaluru: A day after the suicide of a contractor, who was found dead in a lodge in Karnataka's Udupi, the state's minister KS Eshwarappa has been named accused in the police case.

The First Information Report or FIR accuses the minister of driving contractor Santosh Patil to suicide, the reports said.

Earlier, before committing suicide, Patil reportedly sent some messages to a few media houses saying that he was committing suicide and alleged that Eshwarappa was responsible for his death. Reacting to the incident, Eshwarappa had said he had no information about the suicide.

"I have no information. I had filed a case (defamation suit) against him for levelling the charges and the case was admitted. I am learning about the suicide from you (media)," Eshwarappa said.

To a query that Patil had blamed him for his death, the Minister said, "He could have written it but I have no information about it. I have no clue why he wrote my name in the death note and why he accused me. Only he can answer but he is no more."

On March 30, Patil, who had claimed himself to be a BJP worker, alleged that he had executed a work in the RDPR department and wanted the payment but Eshwarappa demanded 40 per cent commission in the Rs four crore work.

The Minister not only rubbished his charge, but also filed a defamation suit against him.

PSI recruitment scam: Audio clip of BJP MLA 'admitting' to taking bribe goes viral

Bengaluru: BJP leader and MLA for Kanakagiri in Koppal district Basavaraj Dhadesugur's name surfaced in the police sub-inspector recruitment scam after an audio clip of his purported telephonic conversation with the father of an aspirant went viral on Monday.

In the audio clip, Mr. Parasappa, the father of the PSI post aspirant, demands Mr. Dhadesugur to return ₹15 lakh that he had given about one-and-a-half years ago for getting the post for his son. Mr. Dhadesugur is heard admitting to having accepted the money and promises to return it. Mr. Dhadesugur was also heard reprimanding Mr. Parasappa for discussing the matter with others, who, in turn, were calling him to enquire about it.

"At present, I'm in Bengaluru and I have talked to district president Doddanagouda ... You need not involve a third person. I have received money and given it to the government. I am responsible for it. I will return the money after returning from Bengaluru," Mr. Dhadesugur said in the audio clip.

After the audio clip went viral, Mr. Dhadesugur denied that he had accepted the money by stating that he was only mediating between the two meaning that one who gave the money and other who accepted it.

"This is the problem between the two people. Both of them came to me with a request to resolve it and I promised them to do so. I have nothing to do with their problem," he told mediapersons in Koppal on Monday.

Demand for arrest

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee's publicity committee head M.B. Patil, who was in Koppal on Monday, urged the government to arrest Mr. Dhadesugur and interrogate him in the PSI recruitment scam.

"In the audio clip that went viral, Mr. Dhadesugur admitted that he had accepted money [from the father of a PSI post aspirant] and gave it to the government. The government should arrest and interrogate Mr. Dhadesugur to unearth more details about his and others' involvement in the scam," Mr. Patil told media persons after visiting Gavimath in the city.

Now, 13,000 Schools from Karnataka Charge Bommai Govt of Corruption, Write to PM Modi

New Delhi: As many as 13,000 schools, represented by two school management associations, from Karnataka have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing the Basavaraj Bommai government of serious corruption, NDTV reported.

In their letter to the prime minister, the school management bodies – The Associated Managements Of Primary And Secondary Schools, and The Registered Unaided Private Schools Management Association (RUPSA) – alleged that the state education department had been demanding bribes for various processes involving the department, including for the issuance of recognition certificates to educational institutions.

They squarely placed the blame on state education minister B.C. Nagesh. According to Deccan Herald, RUPSA president Lokesh Talikatte on Friday, August 26, said, "Instead of curbing the corruption in the department, the minister B.C. Nagesh has become greedy and several private schools are on the verge of closure due to his greed."

The letter said several of their appeals to both Nagesh and chief minister Bommai had gone unattended, forcing them to reach out to the prime minister.

Talikattee claimed that block education officers and deputy directors of public instruction (DDPI) had fixed a percentage as a "cut" to process any application. "The department renews recognition of schools every year and no file gets moved without a commission or bribe," he added, according to the Deccan Herald report.

The letter to the prime minister accuses "two different BJP ministers" of causing trouble to schools in the state.

"The education ministry is impatient to listen and understand the actual pathetic situation of the whole system and resolve the issues. Two different BJP ministers literally caused lots of damage to budget schools rather than those schools that are commercialising education by allowing more and more investors to set up, directly costing more fees per child for parents," the letter said, according to NDTV.

"The education minister has no concern to liberalise the rigid norms and frame rules and regulations that both public and private schools can practically and physically implement without burdening parents and students," the letter added.

The signatories of the letter urged the prime minister to launch an investigation into the functioning of the Karnataka education ministry.

Meanwhile, education minister Nagesh dismissed the allegations. "This is not the first time they are making these allegations. If they have proof, let them go to the Lokayukta," he told Deccan Herald.

Lokayukta recovers Rs 6 Cr unaccounted cash from BJP MLA's son's house

Bengaluru: Lokayukta sleuths recovered unaccounted cash of more than Rs six crore from the house of BJP MLA K Madal Virupakshappa's son Prashanth Madal close on the heels of his arrest after allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 40 lakh.

Prashanth, the chief accountant of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, was caught red-handed on Thursday evening while accepting the bribe from a contractor at the Karnataka Soap and Detergents Limited (KSDL) office.

The MLA is the Chairman of KSDL, makers of 'Mysore Sandal' soap. The incident is seen as an embarrassment to the ruling BJP in Karnataka, where Assembly elections are due by May.

In the FIR that has been registered, Virupakshappa is the accused number one and his son is the second accused.

Within hours of the trap, a team of Lokayukta officials raided his house and recovered the unaccounted cash.

Prashanth was allegedly receiving 'first installment' of the bribe on behalf of his father, according to Lokayukta sources.

Facing the heat, Virupakshappa, MLA from Channagiri constituency in Davangere district, today tendered his resignation from the post. In his resignation letter to the Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, he said there is no "relation" between him and the Lokayukta raid which he termed as a conspiracy against him and his family.

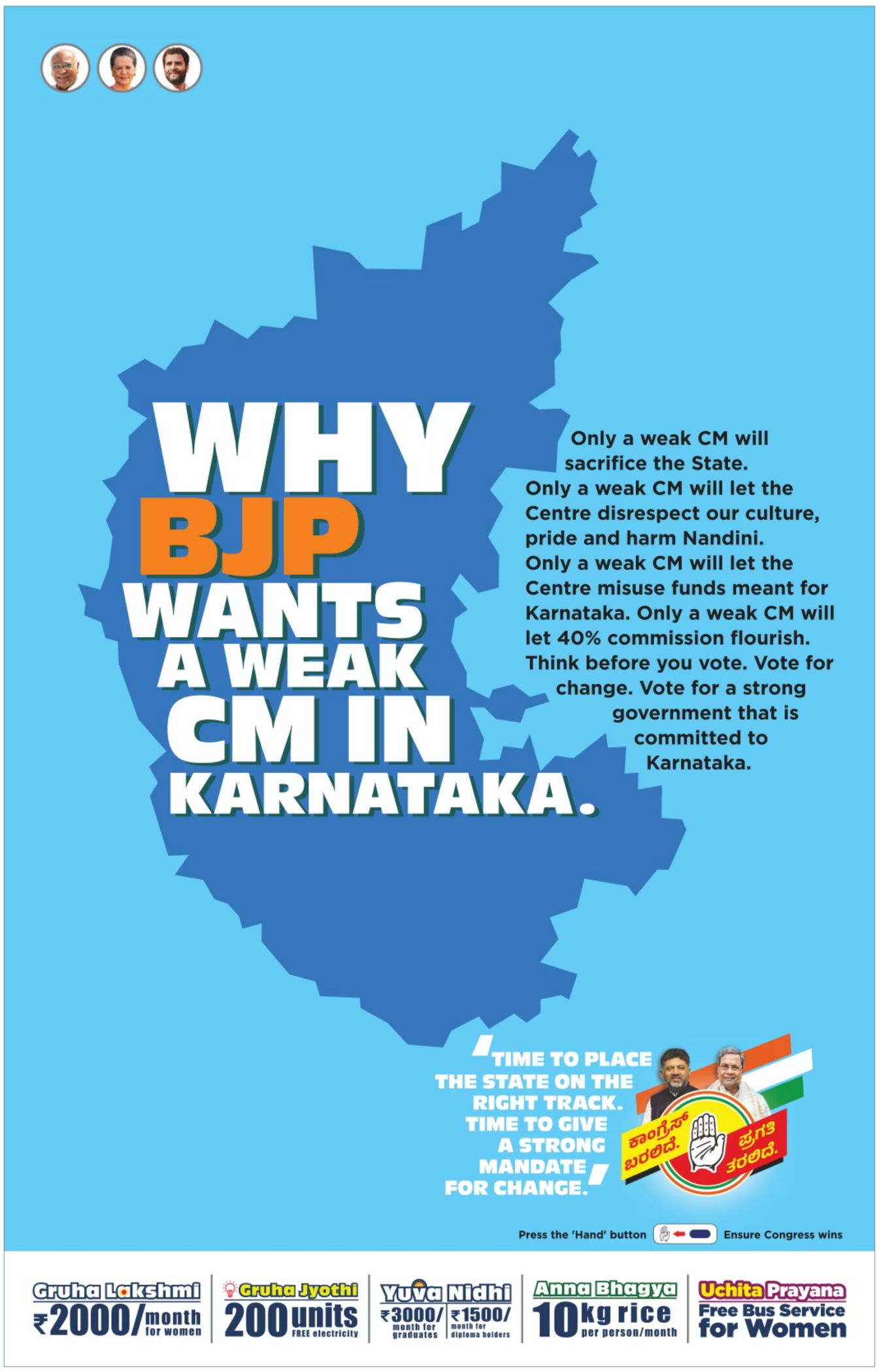
"Despite that since an allegation has been levelled against me, I am taking moral responsibility and submitting my resignation from the post of KSDL Chairman", he said.

Karnataka Lokayukta Justice (Retd) B S Patil said today Rs 2.02 crore was recovered from the KSDL office during the search and Rs 6.1 crore from Prashanth's house, totally.

"Five persons have been apprehended and they have been taken into custody", he said, adding an FIR has been registered.

Others named in the FIR are office accountant Surendra, and Prashanth's relative Siddesh and, Albert Nicola and Gangadhar who are field workers in the 'Karnataka Aromas Company'.

ADVERTISEMENT


WHY BJP WANTS A WEAK CM IN KARNATAKA.
Only a weak CM will sacrifice the State.
Only a weak CM will let the Centre disrespect our culture, pride and harm Nandini.
Only a weak CM will let the Centre misuse funds meant for Karnataka. Only a weak CM will let 40% commission flourish.
Think before you vote. Vote for change. Vote for a strong government that is committed to Karnataka.
"TIME TO PLACE THE STATE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. TIME TO GIVE A STRONG MANDATE FOR CHANGE."
ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಬರಲಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಗತಿ ತರಲಿದೆ.
Press the 'Hand' button Ensure Congress wins
Gruha Lakshmi ₹2000/month for women
Gruha Jyothi 200 units FREE electricity
Yuva Nidhi ₹3000/ month for graduates ₹1500/ month for diploma holders
Anna Bhagya 10kg rice per person/month
Uchita Prayana Free Bus Service for Women

Modi roadshow: Traffic police ask people to avoid key roads today

His roadshow will traverse through Bommanahalli, Jayanagar, Basavanagudi, Chamarajpet, Govindaraj Nagar, Rajajinagar and end at Kadu Malleshwara Temple in Malleswaram Assembly constituency. Operation of buses is likely to get affected owing to blockage or traffic diversion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The roadshow by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday (May 6) is likely to throw traffic out of gear in the city. Bengaluru Traffic Police have issued an advisory to avoid 35 key roads and junctions between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. While they usually issue traffic diversions, this time, the advisory asks commuters to avoid these roads entirely.

"We are not able to predict the exact time when the roadshow passes through which roads. So we have kept it dynamic and flexible. It is better to avoid these roads and junctions on Saturday, but if it is inevitable, expect some delay in passing through them," said a senior traffic police official.

Mr. Modi landed in Bengaluru on Friday evening after campaigning in Ballari and Tumakuru and will stay overnight in Raj Bhavan. He will leave Raj Bhavan for Head Quarters Training Centre, Mehkri Circle, from where he will take a helicopter to RBI Layout, Bommanahalli Assembly constituency, and begin his roadshow around 10 a.m. His roadshow will traverse through Bommanahalli, Jayanagar, Basavanagudi, Chamarajpet, Govindaraj Nagar, Rajajinagar and end at Kadu Malleshwara Temple in Malleswaram Assembly constituency.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his roadshow in Bengaluru on April 29. ANI

The Bangalore International Airport Limited said it had not issued any specific advisory in view of the roadshow on Saturday but said that it would retweet advisories issued by the Bengaluru city traffic police from its official Twitter handle.

Bus services to be hit

Operations of city buses are likely to get affected due to blockage of roads or diversion of traffic to facilitate the roadshow. An official of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) said, "We are not curtailing bus services. However, the time taken to reach the destination will get affected due to the diversion of traffic or traffic congestion. We will go as per the directions of the traffic police."

Bangalore International Airport Limited says that it would retweet advisories issued by the city traffic police from its official Twitter handle

HDK slams BJP

Against the backdrop of the NEET exam, which will be conducted on Sunday (March 7), former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has slammed the BJP and demanded the Prime Minister change the schedule of roadshows planned for that day in the city.

"Parents and students have raised concern over the roadshow. These roadshows should not spoil the future of the students. The agenda of the BJP is to secure power at any cost by ignoring the problems faced by the people. Being the Prime Minister, he should not play with the future of the students."

Traffic restrictions

Roads and junctions to be avoided between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. today

- Raj Bhavan Road
- Ramana Maharshi Road
- Mehkri Circle
- RBI Layout, J.P. Nagar
- Rose Gardens, J.P. Nagar
- Sirsi Circle
- J.J. Nagar
- Binny Mill Road
- Shalini Ground area
- South End Circle
- Armugam Circle
- Bull Temple Road
- Ramakrishna Ashram
- Uma theatre
- T.R. Mill
- Chamarajpet Main Road
- Balekayi Mandi
- K.P. Agrahara
- Magadi Main Road
- Cholarapalya
- M.C. Circle
- West of Chord Road
- M.C. Layout - Nagarabhavi Main Road
- BGS Ground
- Havanur Junction
- 8th and 15th Main Roads, Basaveshwaranagar
- Shankar Mutt Junction
- Modi Hospital Road
- Navarang Junction
- MKK Road
- Malleswaram Circle
- Sampige Road
- Sankey Road

'Visit sites of injustice'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of Bahutva Karnataka and Eddelu Karnataka have written an open letter to the Prime Minister asking him visit "sites of injustice" in the city, including Shivaram Karanth Layout, ITI, Jayanagar BDA Complex, Ejipura EWS Quarters and Majestic bus stand.

"You can have lunch at the closest Indira canteen and answer why the State government has cut funds for this pro-poor canteen," it said, adding to the list: "Devanahalli, where farmers who are protesting land acquisition had cases filed against them because the protest was not at Freedom Park." "Please restrict yourself to Freedom Park. We will vote on what the current government has done and not done for the State. We do not know why your party is asking for votes in the name of the PM and not the CM. We don't know why you need to come to do a roadshow here, for which lots of trees have had branches cut, street vendors prevented from doing business and roads blocked," it added.

'Clear stray dogs and monkeys'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have asked the civic body to catch stray dogs, bees, monkeys and snakes in the helipads that Prime Minister Narendra Modi uses and along the route that his roadshow will take through the city.

Konanakunte police have written to the chief civic commissioner asking the civic body to ensure stray dogs, monkeys, and bees do not create any impediments to the landing of the Prime Minister's helicopter and later along the route he takes for the roadshow.

Sources said this was a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) during any VVIP movement and helicopter landing in the city.

Students, parents worry about traffic restrictions on the day of NEET

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

After much planning and re-planning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow in Bengaluru on Sunday is expected to end by 11.30 a.m., as it is the day of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) examinations.

Apart from the Prime Minister's, there are also a few other rallies planned by political parties ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. The restrictions on traffic and other movements on the day have now added additional stress to the minds of the students taking the examination as well as their parents.

"I stay in J.P. Nagar and my examination centre is the Army Public School near Mehkri Circle. It is going to take me at least an hour to reach the centre from my house. Earlier, I had planned to reach the centre an hour prior to the examination, but now, I have changed my plans. I would like to reach the centre around two or two and a half hours early to avoid hitting any traffic roadblocks," said Vijayalakshmi J.P, a student who is writing NEET on Sunday.

Similarly, Sarah Siddiqa, another student from J.P. Nagar, has also had to change her travel plans due to the political rallies. "My examination centre is in Sunkadakatte, and it is almost an hour away from my house. The gates close at 1.30 p.m. at the examination centre, and I had planned to leave home by 12.30 p.m. However, now as a precautionary step, I will leave home by 11.30 a.m. itself to reach there on time," she said.

She added that she has decided against relying on public transport and will have her father will drop her to the centre." Not just students but parents are also anxious about their children reaching the centre on time. "It is definitely a stressor now. More than me, my parents are now very worried, and we are figuring out plans to reach there early," Vijayalakshmi said.

Letters to EC, BBMP

Several educational associations like All India Democratic Students' Organisation and People's Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education (PAFRE) wrote letters to the Election Commission and Chief Commissioner of the BBMP on Friday asking them to ensure that students face no inconvenience while writing their examinations, for which they have prepared from many months.

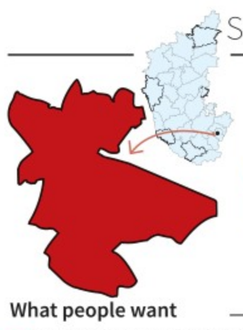
In a letter written to the Election Commission of India, Shashi Kumar D., convenor of Karnataka Private School Managements, Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff Co-ordination Committee, said, "Due to your postponement of Saturday's rally to Sunday of a national party, you are causing hardship and fear psychosis among students as there will be high security due to the Prime Minister's presence. Due to this, most roads have traffic restrictions, and your office has not looked at how many NEET exam centre premises come under these roads. Hence, we request your office to look into issues so that there are no restrictions in and around the city which causes hardship and fear to reach exam centres."

Classes called off

Some educational institutions, which are along Mr. Modi's roadshow, have called off classes on Saturday. Although there is no official order, these institutions have taken a call themselves.

Problems galore, but they rarely become election issues in Pulikeshinagar, Shivajinagar, and Sarvagnanagar

Sarvagnanagar Assembly Constituency

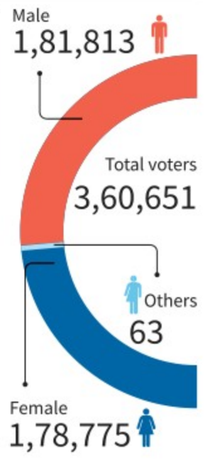


Main candidates

K.J. George
Congress

Padmanabha Reddy
BSP

Mohammed Mustafa
JD(S)



What people want

- Remove all manned railway gates to make traffic flow smooth
- Check rampant drug peddling, mainly ganja, and design programmes for deaddiction and rehabilitation
- Provide adequate drinking water

History of the seat

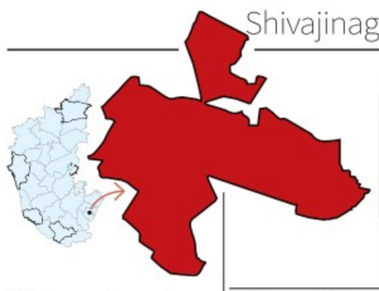
The constituency was newly formed in 2008, and since then K.J. George from Congress has won the seat with big margins in all three elections.

In 2013, SDPI stood third in the seat ahead of JD(S) but did not contest in 2018. It is again in the fray this time.

Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up Vote share	Votes polled	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	K.J. George Congress	69,673 49.53%	Padmanabha Reddy BJP	46,820 33.28%	Mahboob Sharieff SDPI	11,161 7.93%
2018	K.J. George Congress	1,09,955 61.74%	M.N. Reddy BJP	56,651 31.82%	Anwar Sharieff JD(S)	4,926 2.77%

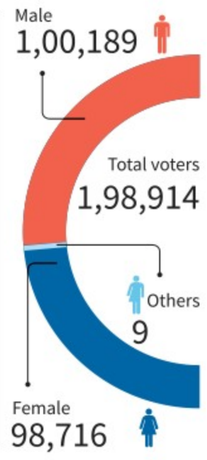
Shivajinagar Assembly Constituency



Main candidates

Rizwan Arshad
Congress

N. Chandra
BJP



What people want

- Put an end to the menace of rowdyism and maintain law and order
- Check rampant drug peddling, mainly ganja, and design programmes for deaddiction and rehabilitation

History of the seat

R. Roshan Baig has been MLA from the constituency five times, thrice from Congress and twice from Janata Parivar

Mr. Baig resigned as MLA in 2019 during mass defections that brought down JD(S)-Congress government but he neither joined BJP nor contested bypolls. Rizwan Arshad from Congress won the bypolls

Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up Vote share	Votes polled	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	R. Roshan Baig Congress	49,649 54.62%	Nirmal Surana BJP	28,794 31.68%	Abbas Ali Bohra JD(S)	5,983 6.58%
2018	R. Roshan Baig Congress	59,742 55.04%	Katta Subramanya Naidu BJP	44,702 41.19%	Shaik Mastan Ali JD(S)	1,313 1.21%

KEY CONSTITUENCIES

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The adjoining Assembly constituencies of Shivajinagar, Pulikeshinagar, and Sarvagnanagar make up one of the largest blocks dominated by low-income groups, minority communities, and Dalits in the city.

These areas have remained so for decades now, with no great improvement in the socio-economic condition of its residents.

It is also characterised by narrow bylanes, overflowing drains, and crumbling civic infrastructure. Women waiting with plastic pots at public taps is still a common sight here. Not only that, these areas have higher crime rates, rowdyism and drug peddling, mainly ganja, which is so easily available that even young children are habituated to it.

However, none of these pressing issues seem to figure in the campaign in these three constituencies.

Personality dominated

"Elections in these constituencies are mostly dominated by personalities. The lack of credible challengers in these areas has essentially ensured the real issues are not discussed. But these constituencies genuinely need change and new thinking. We need programmes to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people here and control crime," said R.A. Janab, a resident of Pulikeshinagar.

While K.J. George has won thrice from Sarvagnanagar with large margins, Akhanda Srinivasamurthy has won twice from Pulikeshinagar, once each on JD(S) and Congress tickets each, and is this time contesting from BSP. R. Roshan Baig, who dominated Shivajinagar for over two decades, is no longer in the fray.

This is also the area that saw violence in 2020 over a derogatory remark against Prophet Mohammed in D.J. Halli. The violence left three people killed in police action.

As the post was made by Mr. Srinivasamurthy's nephew, his house was attacked by the mob.

As he hobnobbed with the BJP after the riots, he seems to have antagonised Muslims in the belt, prompting Congress to deny him a ticket. Congress has fielded A.C. Srinivas from Devanahalli in Pulikeshinagar this time. The fight seems to be between Congress and Akhanda Srinivasamurthy.

Though many complain that Mr. George is not accessible in Sarvagnanagar, he seems to be the favourite again. Padmanabha Reddy from BJP, who has taken on Mr. George multiple times earlier, is again in the fray.

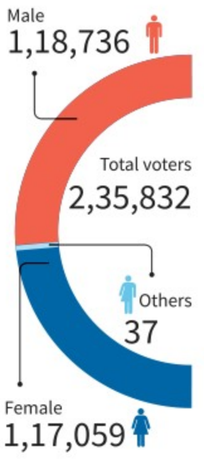
Pulikeshinagar Assembly Constituency

Main candidates

A.C. Srinivasa
Congress

Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy
BSP

A. Murali
BJP



What people want

- Fix crumbling civic infrastructure, mainly roads and drains
- Provide adequate drinking water
- Remove all manned railway gates to make traffic flow smooth

History of the seat

- The constituency was newly formed in 2008 and since then has swung between Congress and JD(S)
- Incumbent MLA Akhanda Srinivasamurthy has won from both JD(S) and Congress, and with the highest margin in the State in 2018. He is now contesting from BSP.

Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up Vote share	Votes polled	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy JD (S)	48,995 48.75%	B. Prasanna Kumar Congress	38,796 38.6%	Hemalatha SDPI	5,431 5.4%
2018	Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy Congress	97,574 77.18%	B. Prasanna Kumar JD(S)	15,948 12.61%	Susheela Devaraj BJP	9,479 7.5%

IMA scam

Rizwan Arshad won a bypoll in 2019 after R. Roshan Baig resigned as part of mass defections that brought down the JDS-Congress coalition government but did not contest the by-polls, given he was accused in the IMA scam in which many poor people, mainly Muslims, lost money. However, with Mr. Baig not in the fray, IMA scam figures nowhere in the campaign this election.

Mr. Arshad now faces off against N. Chandra, a former Congress councillor who worked for his victory in 2019 from BJP. Contrary to expectations, there is a tough fight in the constituency.

BJP has won the seat twice in 1999 and 2004 and has a consistent vote base in the constituency.

Spotlight

Read longform articles from our regional editions

- **Delhi:** The turf war between gangs of Delhi **bit.ly/gangstermurder**
- **Kerala:** On the destruction of sacred groves **bit.ly/forestgroves**
- **Telangana:** Starting trouble for new medical colleges **bit.ly/telmedicalcollege**
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			East	West	North	South
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2.	**Sri.Prahalad Koushik** and **Smt. Kantharajapura Levappa Sujaya Kumari** Sy No.170/5- 6 Guntas	Document No. JGN-1-03192-2014-15 dated 03.11.2014	Remaining land in the same Sy. No.	Remaining land in the same Sy.No	Sy No. 170/3	Re-Survey No. 190
3.	**Smt.G.N.Uma Rani** Sy. No.170/6- 8 ½ Guntas	Document No. JGN-1-00407-2013-14 Dated 18.04.2013	Re-Survey No. 173	Remaining land in the same Sy No.	Sy No. 170/3	Re-Survey No. 190

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto, Vir Anthony Britto, Advocates
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Place: Bengaluru Date: 05/05/2023

The enduring genius of Steph Curry

The four-time NBA champion is continuing to drop jaws and boss games at 35. He has lifted Golden State Warriors out of adverse situations this season – and if the team is to have a shot at defending its title, its talisman will have to keep conjuring up the extraordinary

GETTY IMAGES

Steph Curry

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse

Over the course of a richly decorated career, Stephen Curry has routinely produced jaw-dropping performances when his team has most needed it. But even by his elite standards, Sunday's showing against Sacramento Kings in the winner-takes-all Game 7 was a bit special.

Only a few players have bossed a clutch game in a hostile building with such authority. It was the most prolific Game 7 display in NBA history – Curry racked up a record 50 points in a 120-100 win that sent Golden State Warriors into the Western Conference semifinals, a result that didn't appear likely when the reigning champion went 0-2 down in the seven-match series.

"For Steph to be the first player ever to get 50 in a Game 7, he's sublime," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. One of Curry's former teammates – and Kerr's former charges – Kevin Durant held the previous Game 7 record: 48 points for Brooklyn Nets in a 2021 loss to Milwaukee Bucks.

Needing to win on the road facing an antagonistic, cowbell-clanging crowd at the Golden 1 Centre in Sacramento, Warriors required all of Curry's considerable genius.

And the 35-year-old guard delivered, hitting 20 of a career-high 38 shot attempts, delivering after almost every big play by Sacramento. He also added eight rebounds and six assists in a performance dripping with swagger, his signature mouthpiece dangling from a celebratory grin.

Curry drove fearlessly to the basket with eye-catching acrobatics all game. "I just wanted to look for shots early, get my teammates going," the four-time NBA champion said. "But when I'm looking for shots, it usually works in our favour. We started to see where the holes were and I could be ultra aggressive."

Given Warriors' road woes all season, it was a courageous response in the face of adversity – something only sport's very best manage with any consistency. It was not surprising therefore that Curry's teammates and coach recognised just how exceptional he is.

"There is a reason he is a two-time MVP, a Finals MVP, because he pushes us over the top in moments like this," Curry's long-time teammate Klay Thompson said. "When he's in the zone like that, you try to just get him in his spots, get him the ball and get out of the way. This is a Game 7 I will forever remember as the Steph Curry game."

Kerr drew a parallel with a very famous Chicago Bulls teammate of his from the 1990s.

"We take Steph for granted because he's brilliant night after night," Kerr said. "You just have to remind yourself every once in a while, big picture, this is one of the great players in the history of the game. But that's how I felt back in my playing days with Michael Jordan. You'd see it over and over and over again, so you took it for granted. That's how it is with Steph."

Warriors and Curry are currently locked in battle with another GOAT contender in the Conference semifinals: Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James.

Given all the NBA Finals history between them – Warriors faced a James-led Cleveland Cavaliers in four straight NBA Finals, winning three of them – this semifinal is a main-event in itself.

"We're blessed to be playing at this level still and excited about a new chapter," Curry said.

James, 38, and Curry, 35, are still the game's two biggest stars – they are the top jersey-sellers in the league, James at No. 1 and Curry at No. 2, based on rankings at NBAStore.com. So when they pit their best against each other, with everything on the line and only one guaranteed to advance, it makes for can't-miss entertainment.

"They got a GOAT, we got a GOAT," Warriors' Draymond Green said. "Epic. You got Steph, you got Bron doing it all over again. They're not laying down, we're not laying down."

Whatever the outcome of this battle for the ages, two things are certain: Curry's position among the pantheon is secure, it may strengthen but it won't weaken; and even though lingering injuries have crept into this late-career phase, they aren't restricting the range of his genius.

> It takes fundamentals, muscle memory and creativity, and you balance that with confidence. I feel I can always get better, and that's what it's about
>
> **STEPHEN CURRY**

> We take Steph for granted because he's brilliant night after night. But that's how I felt back in my playing days with Michael Jordan. You'd see it over and over and over again, so you took it for granted
>
> **STEVE KERR**
> Golden State Warriors coach

The first point is backed up by irrefutable evidence. Besides his championship rings and awards, he is the NBA's leading three-point shooter of all time, having eclipsed Ray Allen, and is in the top 15 – and climbing – on the all-time postseason scoring chart.

The 6'2" guard has also had a stylistic impact on basketball, revolutionising the way the game is played.

What's more, he has the respect of the greatest players to ever do it.

James has often praised Curry, even saying he wished they could line up together in the NBA. Shaquille O'Neal described him as a one-off, saying, "There are great shooters, and there are phenomenal shooters. But there will never be anyone who can shoot like him."

While injuries and fatigue have eaten into his playing time this season, Curry has shown that when close to full fitness, he can hit a level only the best can hope to match. The responsibility of carrying the Warriors on his back in the quest to defend last season's title is fuelling him, as is the desire to prove that, at 35, his best is still ahead of him.

Curry joked a couple of years ago that he might play until he is 40, but a lot of true things are said in jest. He is certainly doing all he can to prolong his career, willing himself through a challenging season. He sat out 11 games with a left-leg injury and a partially dislocated left shoulder cost him another 11 games. He has missed more than 25 games in all, while also dealing with right elbow soreness and discomfort in his left ankle.

To combat this, he has focused on recovery and nutrition. It's taking more time behind the scenes now for Curry to maintain his non-stop movement on the court, including postgame strength sessions and visits to the weight room.

"I think he's definitely the best-conditioned athlete that I've ever been around in the NBA," Kerr said. "It's amazing just to see what he puts himself through to be ready. He is definitely a guy who's going to age well."

Green, who can judge him from up close, likes what he sees from Curry. "Old is what you make it," he said. "If you go out with an old mindset, you're going to look old. Steph approaches his day to day better than I've ever seen him approach it before. And it's showing up in his game... at 35, he's still able to do it at that level, night in and night out, with no sign of slowing down."

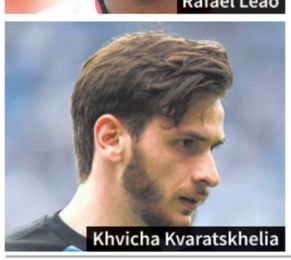
GAME THEORY

Europe's progressive ballers

With the 2022-23 Champions League in its business end, we take a look at the players who have made a difference with the ball close to their feet, whether it's bypassing defenders with dribbles (successful take-ons) or effectively advancing with the ball (cumulative carrying distance, carries and carries into penalty area):

Vinicius Junior

Rafael Leao


Khvicha Kvaratskhelia

Most number of successful take-ons		Cumulative progressive carrying distance (m)	
Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid)	42	Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid)	1,798
Rafael Leao (Milan)	37	Ruben Dias (Man. City)	1,609
Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (Napoli)	35	Federico Valverde (Real Madrid)	1,578
Jamal Musiala (Bayern Munich)	24	Dayot Upamecano (Bayern Munich)	1,563
Alphonso Davies (Bayern Munich)	23	Marco Verratti (PSG)	1,549
Rafa Silva (Benfica)	21	Jack Grealish (Man. City)	1,532
Noa Lang (Club Brugge)	19	Rodri (Man. City)	1,348
Kingsley Coman (Bayern Munich)	17	Neymar (PSG)	1,346
Bernardo Silva (Man. City)	17	Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (Napoli)	1,341
Kylian Mbappe (PSG)	17	Rafael Leao (Milan)	1,316

Most progressive carries		Most carries into penalty area	
Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid)	64	Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid)	39
Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (Napoli)	52	Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (Napoli)	30
Jack Grealish (Man. City)	47	Kylian Mbappe (PSG)	24
Kylian Mbappe (PSG)	45	Rafael Leao (Milan)	23
Federico Valverde (Real Madrid)	40	Jack Grealish (Man. City)	23
Rafael Leao (Milan)	38	Rafa Silva (Benfica)	16
Neymar (PSG)	37	Mohamed Salah (Liverpool)	16
Kingsley Coman (Bayern Munich)	36	Galeno (Porto)	15
Ousmane Dembele (Barcelona)	36	Rodrygo (Real Madrid)	14
Giovanni Di Lorenzo (Napoli)	34	Karim Adeyemi (Dortmund)	13

SOURCE: FBREF.COM

PICTURE THIS

HARRY TRUMP/GETTY IMAGES

Hurtling around

Luge is reportedly the fastest of the disciplines at the Winter Olympics, with lugers hitting speeds of more than 130 kmph, even touching 150 clicks on rare occasions.

This effectively means a human being lying in the supine position — face up and feet first — on a flat sled can travel as fast as a cricket ball delivered by a quick bowler!

At such speeds around tight courses with small turns, control is a significant challenge: it's no wonder that Romania's Eduard Mihai Craciun is struggling with a disobliging sled in this photograph, taken earlier this year at the Luge World Championships in Oberhof, Germany.

Lugers steer their sled and change direction by shifting weight with the help of their calf muscles and shoulders — this is as subtle as manoeuvring gets.

Luge has four categories — men's singles, women's singles, doubles and team relay — and is a timings-based race.

The luger or team with the fastest cumulative time wins.

Most Indian fans will have heard of the sport because of Shiva Keshavan, who competed in six Winter Games, from 1998 to 2018.

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Dependence on moneylenders left farmers trapped in an endless cycle of debt, despair and occasional corrupt loan waive.	**54 lakh** farmers with Direct Transfer of **Rs. 15,000 crores** to the bank accounts under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi.
Illness left the family burdened with financial difficulties.	**1.38 crore** people get free healthcare and affordable medicines through Ayushman Bharat and PM Aushadi Kendras.
Fuelled widespread rumours and panic, and pushed foreign Vaccine during the Covid pandemic.	**12.2 crore** free COVID-19 vaccinations and **4 crore** people across Karnataka got free ration for 18 months.
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LEGAL EAGLE

One plot, three owners

Your property-related legal queries answered by S.C. RAGHURAM, Partner, RANK Associates, a law firm

Question:

I own a plot registered in the name of three brothers including me. The issue now is among the three of us, two of my elder brothers are no more. Only one was married and has a family. The other brother was unmarried. I want to know who will be his Class 2 legal heir and inherit his share as the property is registered under Hindu Karta Act as family arrangement deed and all the revenue documents have been changed to all three of our names.

S.E PANDIAN
Chennai

Answer:

The first step would be to obtain a Legal Heirship Certificate from the office of the Tahsildar for both the brothers who are no more. As a general rule, for an unmarried person, the Tahsildar will issue a certificate of other family members, which will include parents and siblings. The rights of succession will depend on the personal laws of the respective parties. To our knowledge, there is no such Act as Hindu Karta Act. Please consult a lawyer with the `Family Arrangement Deed' mentioned in your query and check its impact on the ownership of the property.

Psychology of design

How it impacts productivity, creativity, and employee morale. By **Aman Gupta**

Your attitude towards work is primarily affected by your office workspace design. For instance, if the office design doesn't favour your employees' working style, you will see a considerable drop in productivity, work quality, and employee satisfaction.

Constricted workspaces, confining extroverts in cubicles, and introverts in shared offices can be a blow to their morale and enthusiasm.

Ventilation, noise pollution, and lighting are other factors that affect employee productivity. But you might be missing out on some lesser-known aspects such as colour, layout, flexibility, and function.

For instance, bright colours – mostly orange and yellow – spur imagination, creativity, and inspiration.

Friendly vibe

Every workspace has a particular vibe that is felt through its environment and people. That vibe is what potential employees look for.

Companies these days are providing recreational rooms for employees to boost their interest and productivity. For instance, Google's office has a rooftop garden, a swimming pool, a climbing wall, and several other amenities. Foursquare's office has rooms with various themes to suit employee interests. A lot of corporate offices are also seen placing digital signage for improving communication and boosting employee morale.

By simply providing employees with areas to recharge and keeping their comfort in mind, engagement and productivity will rise

This is effective execution of environmental psychology at work. Although, for some old-school employers, it may seem like paying employees to play, creating an enjoyable work environment attracts and retains talent important for a company's growth.

According to International WELL Building Institute, workplace design that considers air quality, lighting, nature views, and overall interior layout is rewarding. Office design is a subtle factor influencing employee performance and should be considered in welfare and administrative restructuring initiatives to ensure the health and productivity of workers and, in turn, the profitability of the company.

Health culture

Introducing a health-friendly design and structure in the workplace means the office is designed to support and encourage activities such as lunchtime walks, thereby instilling a culture of health in the workplace. Office design helps employees stay active by getting them moving instead of sitting all day. Technology in the office should always have a purpose and make life easier for employees. An office should make it easy for you to complete everyday tasks, such as typing, making quiet phone calls, or booking meeting rooms, as well as collaborating and fostering social interaction.

There are hundreds of workplace surveys and research papers that give interesting ideas on the latest ways of working, aligned with employee productivity and wellness.

The writer is Director, RPS Group.

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The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Information Commission in an order has declared the Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) that operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) as a public authority under the RTI Act.

A Full Bench of the Karnataka Information Commission, comprising State Chief Information Commissioner N.C. Srinivasa and State Information Commissioners S.M. Somashekara and K.P. Manjunath in an order on May 3 declared that BIAL was a public authority.

"Bangalore International Airport Ltd. is hereby declared as 'public authority' within the meaning of Section 2(h)(d)(i) RTI Act, 2005. Hence, Bangalore International Airport Ltd. is further directed to *suo motu* comply with the mandatory provisions of Section 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act, 2005 and publish all particulars as required thereunder within a period of two months from the date of receipt of this order and report compliance on the next date of hearing without fail," the order stated.

In 2007, a Yelahanka resident filed a complaint against BIAL, stating that he did not receive a response for an RTI filed by him.

The complainant had received a letter from BIAL, stating that the provisions of the Right to Information Act 2005 were not applicable to BIAL as it was not a public authority.

In response, the complainant argued that as per information available on airport website private promoters held 74 per cent of the equity while the State promoters held the remaining 26 per cent.

He also further contended that the Government of Karnataka-appointed agency, the Karnataka State Industrial Investment & Development Corporation had provided the site to BIAL free from all encumbrances under the Land Lease Agreement, besides making a State Support Agreement of ₹350 crore to BIAL for the purpose of this project.

He stated that this established substantial government participation in BIAL and sought information from BIAL under the provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, MAY. 06
RISE 05:57 SET 18:35
RISE 19:19 SET 06:11

SUNDAY, MAY. 07
RISE 05:57 SET 18:36
RISE 20:19 SET 07:00

MONDAY, MAY. 08
RISE 05:57 SET 18:36
RISE 21:23 SET 07:55

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	26
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Operation Kaveri: 97 persons from Karnataka land in city

So far, 439 persons from Karnataka have been brought back. Of them 194 are from Shivamogga and 31 from Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ninety-seven persons from Karnataka, who were stuck in Sudan, landed at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru on Friday as part of the ongoing Operation Kaveri. Another 16 persons hailing from Karnataka landed in Mumbai in two batches on the same day.

The first flight from Addis Ababa, carrying 18 evacuees, landed at KIA at 8 a.m. Of these 11 were male and seven were female.

The second flight took off from Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) with 53 evacuees (16 male and 37 female) and landed at KIA at 10 a.m., Of them two passengers were quarantined at RGICD, Bengaluru.

People from Karnataka, who were evacuated from Sudan, at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The third flight from Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) brought back 26 evacuees (all male).

"One of the most extraordinary tasks was bringing the Indians stranded in Al-Fashir. This town is 1,800 km west of Port Sudan. The Indian embassy mobilised two buses to transport them from Al-Fashir to Port Sudan. The journey was challenging and arduous with bus breakdowns, changing buses, etc. The stranded persons exhibited grit and courage during the entire journey. They showed tremendous resilience and confidence in the government that they would be brought back safely," said Manoj Rajan, Commissioner, Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) and Nodal Officer. "Today, we received all 80 persons from Al Fashir who made their onward journey in KSRTC buses to destinations in Mysuru, Shivamogga and Davangere."

So far, 439 persons from Karnataka have been brought back from Sudan, of which 194 belong to Shivamogga, 116 to Mysuru, 32 from Davanagere and 31 from Bengaluru respectively, besides 24 are from Belagavi.

The remaining belong to Kodagu, Ramanagara, Hassan, Kalaburagi, Udupi, Chikkamagaluru, Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Dharwad and Tumakuru districts. So far, persons from Karnataka have been brought back in 14 batches. Apart from Bengaluru, they have also landed in Mumbai, Delhi, Kochi, and Ahmedabad.

We get better returns abroad than here, say Hakki Pikki returnees

Sathish G.T.
SADASHIVAPURA
(SHIVAMOGGA)

"If we had enough land to cultivate, we would have never gone to Sudan to earn money", said Ranjan, 55, one of the Hakki Pikki tribal people from Sadashivampura near Shivamogga, who were stuck in wartorn Sudan recently. He returned to Karnataka on April 28, following the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Like Ranjan, many Hakki Pikki people, who earn their living by selling herbal products, travel abroad every year. For the past 20 years, they have visited many countries. Ranjan had been to Sudan with his son Badal and daughter-in-law Shivani.

Frequent travellers

"We get better returns in the foreign land than what we earn here in the native land. After all the expenses, we save around ₹2 lakh during our foreign visits," he said. He has visited a number of countries in the last 12 years. In fact, his one passbook has been filled with immigration stamps, and he is carrying the second book.

Ranjan has three daughters and two sons to look after, and he has one acre of land. None of his children studied beyond SSLC.

Many Hakki Pikki tribal people, who earn their living by selling herbal products, travel abroad every year

A majority of children in the village study up to Class 10 and start helping their parents collect forest products, process them, and sell the end product by moving from one place to another.

They go to exhibitions held across the country. Whenever they travel abroad, they carry their medicine in powder form and mix it with the coconut oil or mustard oil they get in that country.

They claim that the products they sell are good for those suffering from muscle pain. "We had a tough time for 15 days in the hotel in Sudan where we stayed. There was a shortage of food and water and no supply of power. The officials in the Embassy had warned us against getting out of the hotel," said Shivani.

They would get bread three times a day and somehow manage with that. They are all thankful to the Indian government for rescuing them. Ranjan and his family members have decided not to go to Sudan again.

He added, "Why would we attract such risks if we had enough sources of income here itself?

"We have built houses but do not have records of our rights over our property. We will vote for the candidate who promises us land and records of our property."

Scaling New Heights. Setting New Benchmarks

Net Profit Growth 139 %
Net Interest Margin 3.89 %
Gross NPA Ratio 6.04 %
Return on Assets 0.89 %
NII Growth 21 %
Net NPA Ratio 1.62 %

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Financial Results for the Quarter/Year ended 31st March, 2023

(₹ in Lakh)

S.No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE					CONSOLIDATED				
		QUARTER ENDED			YEAR ENDED	YEAR ENDED	QUARTER ENDED			YEAR ENDED	YEAR ENDED
		31.03.2023 (AUDITED)	31.12.2022 (REVIEWED)	31.03.2022 (AUDITED)	31.03.2023 (AUDITED)	31.03.2022 (AUDITED)	31.03.2023 (AUDITED)	31.12.2022 (REVIEWED)	31.03.2022 (AUDITED)	31.03.2023 (AUDITED)	31.03.2022 (AUDITED)
1	Total income from operations (net)	267840	268267	220941	1011192	875749	268068	268472	221154	1012047	876646
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	62481	51706	37401	178436	101270	62537	51768	37520	178604	101672
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	62481	51706	11852	178436	74270	62537	51768	11971	178604	74672
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	47633	31159	11220	119738	50156	47262	30716	11883	118052	49485
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period {Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)}	Refer Note No. 2					Refer Note No. 2				
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	10316	9616	9330	10316	9330	10316	9616	9330	10316	9330
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of previous year				855881	697052				851190	694047
8	Securities Premium Account	218242	185111	176047	218242	176047	218242	185111	176047	218242	176047
9	Net Worth	832367	789553	706382	832367	706382	861506	785233	703377	861506	703377
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	288100	288100	236000	288100	236000					
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-					
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.35	0.33					
13	Total Debts to total assets	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02					
14	Operating Margin (%)	16.79%	20.28%	14.38%	18.38%	15.22%					
15	Net Profit Margin (%)	17.78%	11.61%	5.08%	11.84%	5.73%					
16	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (₹ 1/- each) for continuing and discontinued operations										
	Basic :(* Not Annualized)	4.91*	3.24*	1.20*	12.43	6.04	4.87*	3.19*	1.27*	12.25	5.96
	Diluted : (* Not Annualized)	4.91*	3.24*	1.20*	12.43	6.04	4.87*	3.19*	1.27*	12.25	5.96
17	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-					
18	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-					

NOTE :
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter/Year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarter/Year ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on Bank's website www.jkbank.com
2. Information relating to Total comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to Banks.

For And On behalf of the Board
BALDEV PRAKASH
Managing Director & CEO
DIN : 09421701

Place : Srinagar
Dated : 04/05/2023

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Modi drops development plank, accuses Congress of 'nurturing terrorism to appease vote bank'

He refers to the film *The Kerala Story* to argue that it represents terrorism that 'undermines society from within'

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

Shifting gears from developmental issues to the theme of terrorism-nationalism ahead of elections in Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his poll rally in Ballari on Friday accused the Congress of "nurturing terrorism to appease and safeguard its vote bank".

Citing the controversial film *The Kerala Story* to bolster his tirade against the Congress, Mr. Modi said, "In the changing times, the nature of terrorism is also changing... The sound of bombs, rifles, and pistols could be heard [in one kind of terrorism]. But the terrorism of a new type, which undermines society from within, makes no sound. *The Kerala Story* is a film based on such a conspiracy in Kerala... See the bad luck of the country, the Congress is seen hand in glove with this terrorism. It is, from the back door, doing politics and deals with people with such terrorist mindset."

Targeting Opposition: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing an election meeting in Ballari on Friday. ANI

He underlined the importance of a robust defence, and law and order system "to make Karnataka the number one system in India", he said it is equally important to keep Karnataka free from terrorism.

"The BJP has always been tough when it comes to terrorism. But, whenever there is an action against terrorism, the Congress develops stomach pain... I am surprised that the Congress, just for the sake of its vote bank, bowed before terrorism," Mr. Modi said.

"It is because of the fear of losing the vote bank that the Congress has lost its courage to utter a single word against terrorism. It is because of its vote bank politics that Congress nurtured terrorism," he said.

On Sudan rescue work

Describing how Indian forces rescued Indians stranded in civil-war-hit Sudan, Ukraine, and other conflict areas worldwide, Mr. Modi accused the Congress of "exposing Indians before their attackers in Sudan". He also alleged that the Congress wanted to "play dirty politics" if something undesirable had happened to Indians in Sudan.

Mr. Modi attempted to project the Congress as "anti-tribal" too, by referring to the last Presidential poll in which the Opposition fielded the former BJP MP Yashwant Sinha against the NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu.

As he has been doing over the last few days, he began and concluded his speech with "Bajrang Bali ki jai" in his speeches both in Ballari and Tumakuru later in the day.

'Prime Minister shouldn't defame people of Kerala'

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi should not "defame" the people of Kerala for the sake of getting some votes in Karnataka, senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala, who has earlier served as the Home Minister of Kerala, said on Friday.

Hitting back at Mr. Modi for his speech in Ballari, where the Prime Minister accused the Congress of "nurturing" terrorism and cited how the party has opposed *The Kerala Story* for vote bank politics, Mr. Chennithala told *The Hindu* that the film is "part of Bharatiya Janata Party-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [RSS] propaganda" to divide the people of Kerala.

"*The Kerala Story* film is totally false because they say 32,000 women converted to Islam and were sent to Islamic State (IS). I was the Home Minister [in Kerala] seven years back and I know what is happening in and out in my State," asserted the veteran Congress leader.

Ramesh Chennithala

Former Kerala Home Minister says claims made in the film *The Kerala Story* are bogus

"Every religion exists in our State and people of every religion are living very peacefully. My son is an IRS officer who has married a Christian. We accepted and happily organised the wedding. In any progressive society such inter-faith marriages take place," he said.

Mr. Chennithala said that Kerala – that has been ruled either by the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) or CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) – has hardly seen any terror attack. "Mr. Modi doesn't need to give us lessons on terrorism as we have lost two of our former Prime Ministers, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, to terrorism," he added.

'With eye on polls'

The Congress leader claimed that the Prime Minister and other BJP leaders have now started to focus on polarising issues as their Karnataka government can't showcase any achievement other than the "label of being a 40% commission sarkar".

"For four years, the BJP government is in power. But the State leaders as well as Central leaders cannot talk about their achievements in Karnataka. They are only talking about things that can flare up communal passion," he said.

'Modi has created new class of voters that is immune to political narratives'

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

K. Annamalai, IPS officer-turned-politician and BJP's co-in-charge for the Karnataka Assembly polls, maintains that elections in the State are different from the earlier ones as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has created a "new class of voters" out of beneficiaries of various government schemes.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Annamalai said this class of voters were immune to various political narratives that were being brought up against the BJP. "They are not bothered about anti-incumbency or allegations being levelled against the government as they have experienced an improvement in their living standards," he claimed, insisting that this was a major factor that would beat the historical trend of the ruling party not winning elections in the last 38 years in Karnataka.

"There is a political change at the ground level. The BJP has been able to retain its main support base besides adding fresh voters because of the towering personality of Mr. Modi who transcends the geographical and caste boundaries," he said.

K. Annamalai, BJP's co-in-charge for the Karnataka Assembly elections

Annamalai expresses scepticism about pre-poll surveys and says Karnataka is a 'psephologists' nightmare' due to its complexities and diversities

Expressing scepticism about the results of various pre-poll surveys, Mr. Annamalai said Karnataka is a "psephologists' nightmare" as it is a very complex State in terms of its cultural diversity, caste matrix, and regional issues. "In fact, there is confusion in all the surveys as there is wild swing of votes in all of them," he said.

'No time to settle down'

Arguing that the BJP government in Karnataka did not get enough time to settle down as it was haunted by COVID-19 and floods in its three-and-a-half-year regime, he said people were smart enough to understand that. "We have completed major projects such as Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway and Shivamogga airport or the installation of Kempe Gowda statue," he claimed. According to him, the transformation started happening in Karnataka about six months ago when the Prime Minister visited the State for inauguration of various development works.

He said, "Because of our strong organisational network, we are good in the last one week to 10 days towards the polls. The focus is on Mr. Modi's visits as they are being attended by a huge number of people. During these visits, Mr. Modi is not only addressing people but also interacting with party workers behind the stage to get feedback from them on the effectiveness of government schemes as well as campaign. This is changing the poll atmosphere for the BJP."

Manipur violence a pointer to BJP's 'double-engine' failure, says Jairam Ramesh

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Congress leader and former Minister Jairam Ramesh said here on Friday that Manipur violence was a pointer to the functioning of the "double-engine" government of the BJP.

Mr. Ramesh was speaking to media persons in the city on Friday. The BJP had been pushing the concept of the "double-engine" government and had made it one of its main election planks by advocating that growth and development would be faster if there was the BJP government both at the Centre and the State, he said.

Ridiculing the concept of the "double-engine" government, Mr. Ramesh said it was a euphemism to control the State government. Look at the developments in Manipur and one gets an idea of how the BJP "double-engine" government functions, Mr. Ramesh added.

He said the Congress, since 1947 had been pursuing the twin agendas of economic development and social justice and these defined its concept of the "double-engine" government. Mr. Ramesh said the Bharat Jodo Yatra of party leader Rahul Gandhi helped revive the organisational network of the party and was giving dividends.

The Congress guarantee schemes also emerged out of the yatra which, he said, came as a "Sanjeevani" to the party. Its effect had been felt not only in Karnataka but also in other States, he added.

Only local issues

Referring to the Congress campaign in Karnataka, Mr. Ramesh said the party was raising only local issues while the BJP was deflecting subjects germane to the people. The Prime Minister talks of larger things such as security but does not touch upon corruption in the BJP-ruled Karnataka, inflation, unemployment, etc. The Congress was focussing on corruption as people of the State were fed up with the extent and scale of the scourge under the BJP, Mr. Ramesh added.

Congress leaders had fanned out across all the 224 constituencies and the party was confident of dethroning the BJP and coming to power, he said.

Sonia Gandhi to campaign in Hubballi

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Former AICC president Sonia Gandhi along with AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, will canvass for party candidates in Hubballi on Saturday.

According to Congress leaders Manickam Tagore and Prasad Abbayya, Ms. Sonia Gandhi will canvass for the Congress candidates of all the seven constituencies in Dharwad district at an election rally in Hubballi on Saturday.

The rally will be held at Young Starts Sports Ground in settlement locality of Hubballi from 5 p.m.

It will be her only election rally in Karnataka and she would return to Delhi after attending the event. One among the Congress candidates in Dharwad district is former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who quit the BJP recently to join Congress.

Lingayat leaders meet religious heads in Hubballi

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

In a development that has the BJP worried, Veerashaiva Lingayat leaders and a few religious heads met at Moorusavir Mutt in Hubballi on Friday to discuss the issue of supporting Lingayat candidates in the Assembly elections.

The development gains significance in the wake of the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa saying that he would "give it in writing in blood" that Jagadish Shettar, who switched over to the Congress after the BJP denied him the ticket, would not win in the Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency. His statement has not gone down well with members of the community, some of whom have openly expressed objection.

On Friday, national president of the Akhil Bharat Veerashaiva Mahasabha and senior Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa along with Congress leaders Allam Veerabhadrappa, K.C. Kondaiah, Mohan Limbikai, and Prasad Abbayya visited Moorusavir Mutt. Interestingly, Lingayat seers from Navaglund, Rayanal, and Rudrakshi Mutt in Hubballi took part in the meeting.

By the end of the day, the seer of Moorusavir Mutt, Gurusiddha Rajayogindra Swami, issued a clarification saying that the Mutt had not convened any meeting under its aegis.

Speaking to presspersons after his visit to the Mutt, Mr. Shivashankarappa said they had come to Hubballi to facilitate the victory of Mr. Shettar and he was confident that voters of the constituency would be in his side.

Taking strong exception to Mr. Yediyurappa's statement against Mr. Shettar, Mr. Shivashankarappa said that being a senior Lingayat leader, he should not have spoken in such a language against another Lingayat leader.

"B.L. Santhosh [BJP national general secretary (Organisation)] also says they don't want Lingayats. They also say they don't want Muslim votes. Then why do they come seeking vortes?" he asked.

Later in the evening, Mr. Shivashankarappa chaired a meeting of community members under the aegis of 'Veerashaiva Lingayat Swabhimanigala Balaga'.

After grandfather and parents, it's now the son's turn to try his luck here

KEY CONSTITUENCY

Sharath S. Srivatsa
RAMANAGARA

Nearly three decades after Ramanagara propelled H.D. Deve Gowda to become the Chief Minister of Karnataka, his grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy is testing waters here following his disastrous debut in the electoral arena in 2019.

In Ramanagara Assembly constituency, considered to be the family's bastion since it gave political rebirth to his grandfather, 35-year-old Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy is being challenged by Congress veteran H.A. Iqbal Hussain and 38-year-old Gowtham Gowda, the BJP nominee.

After suffering ignominious defeat to actor Sumalatha Ambareesh in Mandya in the Lok Sabha polls, Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy has entered the Assembly poll fray, carrying the weight of the family tag. The constituency elected his grandfather in 1994, his mother, Anitha Kumaraswamy, in 2018 bypoll and his father and former Chief Minister, H.D. Kumaraswamy, in 2004, 2008, and 2013. Ms. Anitha Kumaraswamy gave up her claim over the seat in 2023 to pave the way for her son.

At Gabbadi village in Harohalli taluk, Kempaiah and Thimmaiah, both in their 60s, said that though they had voted for Mr. Gowda and Mr. Kumaraswamy, they did not wish to vote for Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy because it had become a "family affair" now. The family has migrated from Hassan and snatched away chances of locals, they said.

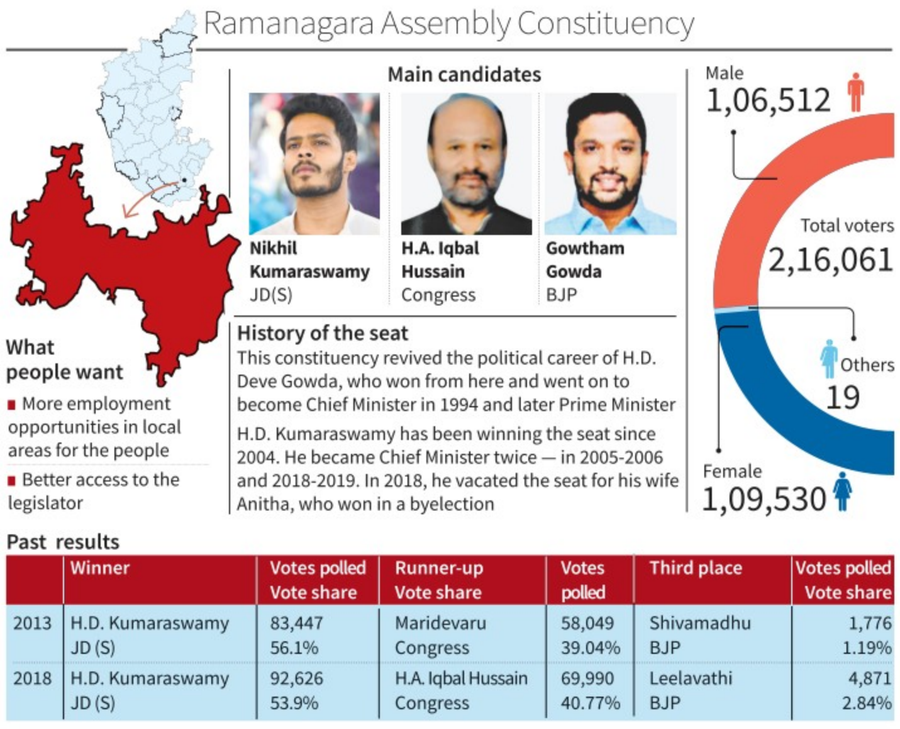
According to Chandrashekar, a BJP functionary, infrastructure in the constituency, especially in the town area, has not improved. "Over the years, one family has dominated the political space. The legislators are also not easily accessible," he claimed.

With Mr. Gowtham Gowda's father, Marilinge Gowda, being a former JD (S) MLC, the contest is being keenly watched as he has the potential to wean away a good number of JD (S) votes. Incidentally, in the 2018 byelection, the BJP polled about 6,000 votes despite its candidate L. Chandrashekar, son of Congress MLC C.M. Lingappa, withdrawing from the fray. Given the current political climate, the outcome of the election hinges on the performance of the BJP candidate while the JD(S) is confident of retaining the seat.

Vokkaliga vote factor

Krishnappa, a resident of Pichankere village, said Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy's fortunes would also depend on how many Vokkaliga votes are garnered by Mr. Hussain, given the influence of KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and his brother D.K. Suresh, MP, in the region. In the Vokkaliga-dominated constituency, the Muslim voters – mostly in Ramanagara town – are also decisive. In Ramanagara town, both JD(S) and Congress have their presence.

Several JD(S) workers in villages felt that the party's 14-month alliance with the Congress in 2018-2019 had hurt them, and did no good to the party. "At the grassroots, JD(S) and Congress workers have bitter fights and at the top, Mr. Kumaraswamy and Mr. Shivakumar came together, which was confusing. Many JD(S) workers also shifted to the Congress," a JD(S) worker in Harohalli said. However, the JD(S) is confident as its workers point out that there are works done by the Kumaraswamy couple that have helped people. "The community has backed the family in the past and will continue to do so," said an activist.


Ramanagara Assembly Constituency
Main candidates
Nikhil Kumaraswamy
JD(S)
H.A. Iqbal Hussain
Congress
Gowtham Gowda
BJP
What people want
More employment opportunities in local areas for the people
Better access to the legislator
History of the seat
This constituency revived the political career of H.D. Deve Gowda, who won from here and went on to become Chief Minister in 1994 and later Prime Minister
H.D. Kumaraswamy has been winning the seat since 2004. He became Chief Minister twice — in 2005-2006 and 2018-2019. In 2018, he vacated the seat for his wife Anitha, who won in a byelection
Male
1,06,512
Total voters
2,16,061
Others
19
Female
1,09,530

Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up Vote share	Votes polled	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	H.D. Kumaraswamy JD (S)	83,447 56.1%	Maridevaru Congress	58,049 39.04%	Shivamadhu BJP	1,776 1.19%
2018	H.D. Kumaraswamy JD (S)	92,626 53.9%	H.A. Iqbal Hussain Congress	69,990 40.77%	Leelavathi BJP	4,871 2.84%

M BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Congress leader Oommen Chandy hospitalised again

Former Kerala Chief Minister and Congress leader Oommen Chandy, who had been undergoing medical treatment at Bengaluru, has been hospitalised yet again, following viral pneumonia. The update on his health was shared by his son, Chandy Oommen, through an Facebook post on Friday afternoon

Same-sex marriages: church opposes legal validation

Hailing the stand taken by the Union government in the Supreme Court against same-sex marriages, the Syro-Malabar Church in Kerala has said giving legal validation for such relationships is unnatural and an injustice to the family system that exists in the country. The Church has opined that same-sex marriage is also a violation of the rights of children to be born and grow in a natural relationship between man and woman. The Church said it has officially submitted its views on the matter to the President of India.

Police rescue 11 child workers at Vijayawada railway station

Officials of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railway Police (GRP) rescued 11 child workers belonging to Jharkhand and Odisha at the Vijayawada railway station, while they were travelling to Chennai. On a tip-off, the RPF and the GRP teams conducted a raid on a train on Thursday night, and rescued the children, allegedly engaged in some manufacturing units. The police took three middlemen, who lured the children, into custody. The minors would be handed over to their parents, the GRP officials said.

Protest marches mark the release of *The Kerala Story*

Police personnel were deployed in release centres in large numbers; most districts had only three or four shows; the movie claims that IS has found Kerala a fertile ground for recruiting youth

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A few protest marches and a generally tepid audience response marked the release of the controversial movie *The Kerala Story* in Kerala on Friday. Police personnel were deployed in release centres in large numbers, anticipating protest marches and attempts to stop the screening. Despite the pre-release controversies, the film at most had three or four shows in most districts.

In the capital city which had only a total of four shows during the day, the first show at the Artech Mall opened with a total occupancy of 40 out of a total of 176 seats. At the second release centre, local leaders of the BJP were part of the crowd. No protest marches were taken out.

The situation was different in Ernakulam, where activists of the Nationalist Youth Congress, youth organisation of the National Congress Party and Fraternity Movement, youth organisation of the Welfare Party of India, staged a protest in front of the Shenoy's theatre in Kochi.

At Kozhikode, the release triggered protests by the Fraternity Movement and the NYC. At Malappuram, the movie had an incident-free opening.

Social media was abuzz with criticism against the movie, for its claim that the Islamic State found Kerala a fertile ground for recruiting youth, an alleged 32,000 men and women conscripts..

Strict vigil: The Kerala Story being screened in a cinema hall in Kottayam on Friday under police protection. VISHNU PRATHAP

Kerala HC declines to stay screening of film

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Friday declined to restrain the producer and director of film *The Kerala Story* from releasing or screening the film.

The Bench comprising Justices N. Nagaresh and Sophy Thomas passed the order when a few writ petitions seeking to suspend the screening of the film or its teaser and trailer came up for hearing.

Offending teaser

The court also observed that in view of the the submission of the producer-company of the film that it did not intend to retain the offending teaser on its social media handles, no further orders were required at this stage.

The court also noted that in a statement filed by Deputy Solicitor General S.Manu on behalf of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), it had been pointed out that the producer had published a disclaimer that the film was a fictionalised one and contained a dramatised version of the events.

The court also observed that a competent statutory authority such as the CBFC had examined the movie and found it suitable for screening.

The court, which viewed the trailer of the movie, added that it did not contain anything offensive to any particular community as a whole. However, it was a fact that none of petitioners had watched the full movie.

The petitioners alleged that the film was based on incorrect and unverified facts and contained derogatory remarks against one particular community.

The release and screening of the film would destroy the secular fabric of society. It had the potential to disrupt public order and public morality, especially women of the Muslim community. They also added that the teaser released on social media contained erroneous statements, tarnishing the image of one particular community.

During the hearing, the Bench orally observed that there was something called freedom of speech and expression.

"The makers of the film had artistic freedom and we have to balance that also."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.1	23.8	Kozhikode	—	36.4	27.2
Ahmedabad	—	39.8	26.1	Kurnool	5	34.8	24.9
Aizawl	6	32.7	17.1	Lucknow	—	34.2	21.3
Allahabad	—	36.0	21.8	Madurai	—	30.2	23.6
Bengaluru	40	28.4	20.8	Mangaluru	—	34.2	25.1
Bhopal	—	—	22.0	Mumbai	—	32.7	26.0
Bhubaneswar	38	35.8	26.2	Mysuru	5	36.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	34.6	21.6	New Delhi	—	34.0	19.5
Chennai	—	34.1	27.0	Patna	—	35.7	22.6
Coimbatore	—	33.0	24.0	Port Blair	4	34.0	26.2
Dehradun	—	30.8	17.2	Puducherry	3	33.0	24.9
Gangtok	3	21.8	12.5	Pune	—	35.5	21.3
Goa	—	34.6	24.9	Raipur	—	36.4	25.0
Guwahati	—	33.0	22.6	Ranchi	—	32.0	21.1
Hubballi	—	35.0	22.0	Shillong	6	24.3	14.6
Hyderabad	3	32.7	24.1	Shimla	—	18.6	10.7
Imphal	—	28.4	20.5	Srinagar	—	23.3	9.6
Jaipur	1.8	35.3	23.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	26.2
Kochi	—	32.4	27.2	Tiruchi	1	33.9	24.1
Kohima	4	20.7	14.4	Vijayawada	—	33.8	27.0
Kolkata	—	35.5	24.6	Visakhapatnam	—	33.5	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.36	..95	.66	84	...114	
Bengaluru	...7	..75	.47	41	44	
Chennai	...3	..91	118	67	62	
Delhi	.26	150	100	...210	...223	
Hyderabad	.10	..31	.78	34	66	
Kolkata	.12	..20	.26	32	52	
Lucknow	...9	..54	.37	71	...115	
Mumbai	...4	..83	115	43	53	
Pune	118	175	114	140	...100	
Visakhapatnam	.18	..44	.15	34	76	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 303 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Restrain A.P. from carrying out Veligonda project works: Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana government has again requested the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) to restrain Andhra Pradesh from carrying out works pertaining to Veligonda project executed in violation of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-I (KWDT-I) Award as also the provisions of A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014.

In a letter addressed to Chairman of the KRMB Nandan Kumar, Engineer-in-Chief (General) of Telangana C. Muralidhar stated that tunnel excavation works of the Veligonda project were going on at a brisk pace with the head regulator to release water from Srisailam reservoir to Nallamalasagar though first tunnel was already completed and work on the 5.52-km second tunnel was in progress.

The ENC brought to the Chairman's notice that Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, had written to Minister of Jal Shakti on October 2, 2020, seeking immediate and effective action to stop diversion of Krishna waters outside the basin areas through Pothireddypadu Head Regulator. The Union Minister had made it clear at the second Apex Council meeting held on October 6, 2020, that inter-basin transfer of water could be done only after fulfilling the needs of the in-basin areas.

Besides, the Minister had reiterated it in a letter addressed to A.P. Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy on January 5, 2021.

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LOST & FOUND

IT IS notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Secondary & Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2015 & 2017 respectively and Roll No 4086157 & 4634948 respectively issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate CHONGTHAM GILBERT. Full Address: Singjamei Chingamakhong Chongtham Leikai, Imphal West Manipur. Tel: 7005750336

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Certificate for 26250 Equity Shares vide Folio no: SON950129 share certificate No. 55445, 55446, 55447, 56145, 56147 bearing distinctive numbers Nos. 54992240, 54996615, 55001865, 25484580, 25491455 to 54996614, 55001864, 55009739, 25487704, 25497079 of SONATA SOFTWARE LIMITED standing in the name of GOKUL SADANANDAN have been lost or misplaced and undersigned have applied to the company to issue duplicate Certificates for the said shares. Any person who has a claim in the respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its office, 208, T. V. Industrial Estate, 2nd Floor, S. K. Ahire Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030 within 15days, else the company will proceed to issue duplicate certificates.
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CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project Area
1) Request for proposal RFP for Selection of Contractor for Improving the ambience of existing 107 MLD STP Muttathara-Providing additional infrastructural facilities

SL. NO.	NAME OF PROJECT	E-TENDER ID	PAC AMOUNT (Exclusive of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
Selection of Contractor for improving the ambience of existing 107 MLD STP Muttathara - Providing additional infrastructural facilities				
1.	Improving the ambience of existing 107 MLD STP Muttathara-providing additional infrastructural facilities	2023_SCTLT_574773_1	Rs. 97,13,130/-	15/05/2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: to Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in
(Sd/-) Chief Executive Officer, SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my clients **SMT. PRANEETHA SURESH,** Aged about 49 years, W/o Sri. N. G. Suresh and **SRI. SUMUKH,** Aged about 27 years, S/o Sri. N. G. Suresh, **both R/a**"SUMUKH", 3rd Cross, Opp. Gandhi Nagar Park, Gandhi Nagar, Tumkuru, have entered into an Agreement of Sale dated **14/12/2022** with **SRI. C. JANARDHAN REDDY,** S/o Late Sri. C. Krishna Reddy, **SRI. K. SAI KUMAR REDDY,** S/o Late Sri. K. Srinivasulu Reddy, **SMT. K. LAXMI**, D/o Sri. A. Narasimhuluand **SMT. J. ANASUYA,** W/o Sri.J.Leela Mohan Reddy to purchase the schedule property, more fully described hereunder.
Any person/s having right, title and interest or claim over the said property as shown in the schedule hereunder may lodge his/her/their claims WITHIN 07 DAYS from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned failing which, the schedule property would be treated as un-encumbered property and my client would enter into sale Deed to purchase the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable house Property bearing present BBMP Katha No.1072/Sy. No.18/1C-1A-1C, converted Sy. No.18/1C-1A-1C, Old Sy. No.18, (converted vide Conversion Order No.ALN. (EVH) SR 34/2011-12 dated 18/07/2011, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, situated at Doddakannahalli Village, VarthurHobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, now Bangalore East Taluk, presently under administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, totally measuring 2.04 Guntas or 2450.25 Sq. feet and bounded as follows: East by : Remaining portion of the same Sy. No. 18/1C-1A-1C, but shown as others' property in previous sale deed. West by : Road and property of V. Jayalakshmi but shown as Road in previous sale deed. North by : Land in Sy. No. 18/1C-1A-1B, South by : Remaining portion of the same Sy. No. 18/1C-1A-1C.
Contact:-
Sri. H. S. Prashanth, Advocate,
M/s Supra Associates, No. 11/1, 1st Floor, East Circle Road, V. V. Puram, Bengaluru
Mobile No. 9902911008
Email: hs.prashanth.adv@gmail.com

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Online Tenders for Adhoc **1) HTC at KFCSC/RH/GS Dodaballapura, 2) HTC at KFCSC Devanahalli and GS Dodaballapura, 3) RTC at KFCSC Dodaballapura to PWS Yerpedu, Tirupathi, AP region, 4) RTC at KFCSC Devenahalli to PWS Yerpedu, Tirupathi, AP region, 5) RTC at KFCSC Dodaballapura to SWC IG Kadapa, AP region and 6) RTC at KFCSC Dodaballapura to SWC IG Kandukuru, AP region 7) RTC at KFCSC Dodaballapura to CSC IG Gunthakal, AP region 8) RTC at KFCSC Dodaballapura to SWC IG Kurnool, AP region 9) RTC at KFCSC Dodaballapura to SWC IG Nandyala, AP region** for Six months is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in"**. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 15.05.2023.** For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**
GENERAL MANAGER (KTK)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I **Mr.J.Aspin** S/o **Mr.N Joseph** would like to inform the general public that i have misplaced **my Original Sale Deed Document No. Identification : 46/2009**, registered at Sub Registrar Kelamangalam, Property bearing In Kothagondapalli Village of Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, attached to the Registration District of Krishnagiri, **Sy No.679, Dry Extent in 5.40, asst Rs.6.06, UDR Sy.No.676/2, Dry Extent in Hec 1.66.5, asst Rs.4.61,** land has been converted in to House Plots in which as per layout plan **Plot No.B-17** of Vacant House.
In case any one finds the document, the same may be returned to the under signed.
J.Aspin
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Short E-tender Notice No.	**5/2023-24 Dt.04.05.2023**
Last date & Time of receipt of tender through online	**18.05.2023 at 3.00 P.M.**
Downloading the tender document by Free of Cost	**From 05.05.2023 to 18.05.2023 upto 3 pm.**
For further details visit website	**http://tntenders.gov.in**

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Superintending Engineer, Circle-II, CW, CMDA, Ch-107
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

Mrs Parvathi Menon
Wife of the late T.S.Menon,
daughter of the late Diwan Bahadur C.P Karunakara Menon & T.C. Janaki Amma
passed away peacefully on
4th May 2023 at Bangalore.
Deeply Mourned by
Mrs Kalyani SivaPrasad
Srimathi and Narayan Menon
Shankar & Preethi Menon
T.C. Narayan

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

4th Death Anniversary

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Chief Com. of Income Tax(Retd.)
DOD:06.05.2019
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Remembered by Vijayalakshmi(wife)
Sridhar (Son) 9845375935, Geetha (Daughter): 9940017410 & Family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In Loving Memory

DOB: 09.02.1948
DOD: 06.05.2021

Dr. V.VIJAYALAKSHMI
M.Sc., M.Phil., M.Ed., D.H.Ed. Ph. D.
(Retired Prof. of Zoology)

A fountainhead of knowledge, source of inspiration, & guiding light for many. While your zest for life & family was cut short, your memories live on forever in our hearts.

Deeply missed & remembered by
Radhakrishnan, Ravi, Madhan,
Manju, Sushma, Uma, Suren, Shruti, Shreya,
Shweta, Darshan, Arjun
and the rest of your Family, Relatives, Friends & Employees
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Ethnic quagmire

Violence in Manipur could have been avoided had govt. stayed above the fray

The concept of "unity in diversity" is not an abstract one. In a multi-ethnic national or provincial setting, the accommodation of differences in a way that bestows socio-cultural recognition of identities while striving for constitutional unity and equality through governance is a must for progress. The conditions for a conflict arise when identities tighten up and become exclusivist, leading to grievances over perceived neglect of one group. But good governance that focuses on accommodation and dialogue helps stem the possibilities of a deterioration of such conditions into violence. The spurt of violence in Manipur that led to mass displacement, the loss of lives, vandalisation of houses, churches, temples besides arson across five districts, might have been a consequence of a long-standing hill-valley identity divide in the State, but it was also avoidable. The trigger was a rally called by the All Tribal Students' Union, Manipur, on Wednesday, protesting the move to concede a demand for ST status, following a High Court order, to the Meiteis, the majority group. The tribal groups are opposed to this demand which is not uniformly endorsed by all sections of the Meiteis. While the grievance that according ST status would eat into the reservation pie for the hill tribal communities seems to be somewhat valid, their raging concern that this will compromise traditional land ownership is not entirely born out of reason and has been used by tribal leaders to whip up hysteric anti-valley sentiments. The conflagration was also the consequence of brewing discontent against what tribal groups perceived as the State government's biased actions.

If the State's Bharatiya Janata Party-led government had acted with alacrity and removed the perception that it was biased towards one dominant section, this situation would not have come to pass. In its over-zealousness in a "war against drugs", the government had indulged in eviction drives which included one that had affected a Kuki village in March and had prompted some of the BJP's tribal MLAs to raise this issue of a perceived bias in governance and seek a change in the party's State leadership. Evictions ostensibly done for forest protection and in the name of removing "outsiders" tend to cause passions to rile up among people dependent upon the hills for a livelihood; doing so without recourse to resettlement and compensation only heightens a sense of injustice among those affected. With the Union government taking charge of security, a tamping down of the violence should follow, but for the grievances to melt down, the faltering State government must convene an all-party mechanism to reach out to the people across ethnic divides.

Symptomatic stall

The aviation industry needs policy changes and regulatory overhaul

Go Airlines, the Wadia Group's low-cost carrier, this week became India's first domestic airline since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic to go into a mid-air stall and seek bankruptcy protection. For an airline that rebranded itself as Go First less than two years ago in a bid to make a fresh start, with CEO Kaushik Khona declaring at the time "our consumers come first" and "...our confidence in the brighter tomorrow", the carrier's abrupt announcement of a suspension of operations is rich in irony. While it has laid the blame squarely on "the ever-increasing number of failing engines" supplied by Pratt & Whitney, which it claimed had resulted in half its Airbus fleet being grounded, the engine problems could at best be termed the proximate cause. Go First's financial woes predate the fleet troubles and the pandemic and are largely symptomatic of the malaise afflicting the wider industry. Given the high capital and operational costs, the commercial air transport industry operates with wafer thin margins. Added to this, the swelling competitive intensity in India's budget airline sector a decade and a half ago saw rivals adopt aggressive pricing strategies to gain market share that stretched balance sheets and made companies more vulnerable to shocks.

If the lockdowns announced in India in March 2020 and the tight travel curbs to combat the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus dealt a deeply bruising blow to all contact intensive sectors, last year's surge in crude prices in the wake of the Ukraine invasion combined with the rupee's depreciation against the dollar sent aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs soaring for domestic carriers. And when air travel demand rebounded last year as the pandemic-linked restrictions were lifted, Go First found itself already hobbled with almost a third of its fleet having been grounded by December 2020, ostensibly due to engine issues. With the airline now moving the National Company Law Tribunal for initiation of insolvency proceedings and an accompanying moratorium on outstanding credit, aircraft lessors have opposed the carrier's resolution plea and instead sought aircraft deregistration and repossession. The outcome in the NCLT notwithstanding, the developments hold a mirror to the industry's systemic infirmities. Rival carrier SpiceJet is simultaneously facing an irate overseas lessor who has moved the insolvency tribunal over unpaid lease rentals. The government knows the issues dogging the industry including a tax structure that keeps ATF costs prohibitive and a regulatory apparatus that is outdated. The onus is on the Centre to find long-term policy solutions if it wants India's struggling airlines to reach cruising altitude.

The horizon for India beyond the G-20, SCO summits

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

India's year-long presidency of the G-20, and leadership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), should not blind us to the persisting challenges the nation faces, due to a concatenation of circumstances. It must, hence, tone down the high expectations that are being generated of reaping a rich dividend from helming the two summits. Global peace, on which India's Prime Minister had waxed eloquent at the last G-20 summit in Indonesia, is nowhere in sight with India holding the reins. Instead, everything points to a further deterioration in the geo-political climate, and to a distinct possibility of impending conflict. Priorities listed by India as signifying its presidency, *viz.*, climate change, clean energy, sustainable developmental programmes and reform of multilateral institutions, are likely to take a back seat, given the deteriorating global situation. Consequently, hopes of reaping a rich dividend from the summitry may be misplaced.

India also needs to be aware that the importance of the G-20 appears to be declining in today's world. The SCO seems to have somewhat greater traction. During its presidency of the two institutions, India may well be called upon to chart a course that balances the contradictory demands of the G-20 and the SCO – and even more so that of the Global South. All this leaves little room for grandstanding, and India should proceed with caution.

Two camps and distrust

The world may not, as yet, be on the brink of a global conflict, but it is perilously close to it. Distrust between the two camps led by the United States and China/Russia, respectively, leaves little scope for countries such as India – that have not declared their allegiance to either camp – any room for manoeuvre. The U.S. and its allies are meanwhile making a virtue of the fact that they are in a position to provide Ukraine with an arsenal of the most sophisticated weaponry available, alongside provision for training Ukraine troops.

Today, Ukraine presents a spectacle of possessing substantial quantities of sophisticated modern weaponry. Less obvious is the fact that Russia is also clandestinely receiving equipment and material from its allies, China not excluded. The two sides are thus positioning themselves to demonstrate which set of modern weaponry is superior. A single misstep could well unleash an Armageddon.

The process of assembling the most advanced arsenal of weapons in modern history had begun quite some time ago, but it was April that witnessed an apogee of sorts. Apart from U.S. and European nations such as Germany, many nations elsewhere are participating in what is turning out to be Europe's war with a global impact. The list of potential suppliers of military equipment now includes even countries such as South Korea, risking the threat that supplying arms to Ukraine makes them a participant in the conflict.

New Delhi needs to tone down the high expectations that are being generated of reaping a rich dividend from helming the G-20 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

The issues for India begin with China

For India, apart from the war clouds on the horizon in Europe and tensions in the East Pacific, there are several issues of deepening concern. Foremost is how to deal with a rampaging China, currently on a major diplomatic-cum-strategic offensive across Asia, especially West Asia. This is further accompanied by a display of its naval prowess in the seas around much of East and Southeast Asia, and a flexing of its military muscle in the Ladakh and Arunachal sectors of the Sino-Indian border. China is unlikely to be deterred by the 'vanilla' laced response proffered by India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, during his recent meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Gen. Li Shangfu, *viz.*, that improvement in ties with China would depend on 'peace on the border'.

This is only likely to reduce room for manoeuvre on India's part, at a time when China is launching several other regional initiatives to checkmate India in the Indian Ocean region, *viz.*, the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum which has seen participation by an overwhelming majority of Indian Ocean states. Also, and unlike India (which seeks to limit the conflict with China to border issues),

China is seeking to widen the arc of conflict with India. Currently China is targeting India for going closer to the U.S. and the western bloc, for its partnership in the Quad (India, Australia, Japan, the U.S.), as well as its participation in maritime surveillance exercises with the U.S., Japan and Australia.

China is also actively engaged in seeking new friends in India's extended neighbourhood, in a bid to limit India's influence in this region. West Asia, once a region where India's influence was preponderant, appears to be fast yielding to China's muscular and diplomatic offensive. Notwithstanding India's attempts to reach out to erstwhile friends such as Egypt (the Egyptian President was the chief guest at the Republic Day parade this year) India seems to have been sidelined, given the major churn in West Asia, much of it on China's initiative. The new China brokered Iran-Saudi Arabia entente is setting the stage for major diplomatic shifts across the region, marginalising India and certain other nations.

India is not unaware of China's hostile intentions overall. It is well aware of China's ability to embark on hybrid warfare, including the adoption of cyber tactics, engage in the 'politics of water' by re-directing the Himalayan rivers, and adapting to modern conditions the tactics popularised by the Fifth Century BCE Chinese Strategist, Sun Tzu, of 'winning wars without fighting through avoiding the enemy's strength and attacking his weaknesses'. Caution has to be India's watchword.

The neighbourhood and Russia

Other turmoils in India's immediate neighbourhood in South Asia, compound India's problems. The situation in Afghanistan appears to be steadily worsening. Events in that country are now beginning to affect nations on its periphery. India has, meanwhile, lost all traction with the Taliban in Afghanistan. Pakistan and Sri Lanka, to different degrees, represent 'worst case' scenarios.

India's relations with Russia also appear to be entering a prolonged phase of uncertainty. Russian ties are not necessarily anchored in defence cooperation, but this has been a key factor in cementing their relations. As India looks more to the West, specially the U.S., for state-of-the-art weaponry, the inevitability of the relationship can no longer be guaranteed. With the Russia-China strategic relationship getting stronger and both countries openly giving vent to their belief in the utility of such a relationship, strains are inevitable in India-Russia relations. Russia's unequivocal attack on the Quad during the SCO Defence Ministers meeting in New Delhi recently, is a pointer to the winds of change that are becoming evident. In the meantime, other pacts involving Russia, such as the Tripartite Russia-India-China platform and BRICS, have lost much of their dynamism. The economic content of the bilateral relationship is limited, and for the present linked to trading in oil, imparting little dynamism to the relationship.

The moot point, hence, is that while India is one of the few countries in the world which has managed to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant economic crisis without much damage, and is widely seen as a prospective global power, it has much to do before it attains this pinnacle. There are many obstacles that have to be overcome before India can achieve its predetermined goal. Well before this, and notwithstanding its fortuitous position of helming both the G-20 and SCO simultaneously, India should not claim to have attained its goal.

Switching on India's smart electricity future

Shalu Agrawal

is a Senior Programme Lead at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and the lead author of the study 'Enabling a Consumer-centric Smart Metering Transition in India'

Imagine a future where your electricity meter becomes your adviser on all things electricity. It tells you about your electricity use during different times of the day, months and seasons. It notifies you about changes in power tariffs so that you plan your activities during low-tariff periods. It points you to appliances that are using more electricity than they should, and suggests options to replace them with new, efficient ones. It even allows you to trade solar power directly with your peers. All this on a mobile app.

India is witnessing the future unfold now. More than 5.5 million smart meters have been installed in India, and over 100 million sanctioned. The target is to replace 250 million conventional electric meters with prepaid smart meters by 2025-26. India is supporting this initiative through a results-linked grant-cum-financing to help power distribution companies (discoms) become financially sound and efficient to deliver better services to consumers. However, there are also on-ground challenges.

Reaping technology benefits

A recent study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) found that the majority of smart meter users have already begun to experience some of the technology benefits. The study covered about 2,700 urban households that use prepaid or postpaid smart meters across six States. Half the users reported improvements in billing regularity, and two-thirds said paying bills had become easier. Around 40% of users alluded to multiple co-benefits such as a greater sense of control over their electricity expenses, a drop in instances of electricity theft, and improved power supply to the locality. In fact, 70% of prepaid smart meter users said they would recommend the technology to their friends and relatives. These findings give confidence that India's smart metering transition is heading in the right direction.

There are some road bumps, though. For instance, half the users were not using the smart meter mobile app, and many were unable to access detailed electricity bills, leaving them doubtful about their bill computation and deductions. Solving these will help bring a smart-meter revolution in India.

A user-centric design and deployment philosophy is what will power India's smart metering initiative

How actors can step up

As India marches towards its vision of a financially sound and digitalised power sector through smart metering interventions, it must pursue a user-centric design and deployment strategy. Here are four suggestions on how diverse actors can step up.

First, the Ministry of Power should drive a nationwide campaign to educate consumers about smart meter benefits and improve the uptake of smart meter apps. The apps should be accessible to users from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and provide actionable tips and information. This is important, as user satisfaction with smart meters is linked to their ability to access and decipher online bills and perceived technology benefits. High-user satisfaction in Assam and high uptake of the mobile app in Bihar indicate learning opportunities on how to scale smart meter usage for discoms in other States.

Second, discoms must co-own the programme and take the driving seat. The majority of smart meters in India are being deployed by the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Providers (AMISPs), responsible for installation and operation of the AMI system for the project lifetime (10 years).

Discoms must closely work with AMISPs to ensure a smooth installation and recharge experience for users, to leverage smart meter data for revenue protection and consumer engagement. For this, discoms will need to strengthen their internal capacity through suitable staffing and training interventions.

Third, discoms, system integrators and technology providers should collaborate to devise innovative and scalable data solutions. Effective use of smart meter data is fundamental to unlocking their true value proposition. This would require an ecosystem that fosters innovation in analytics, data hosting and sharing platforms, and enables key actors to collaboratively test and scale new solutions.

Fourth, policymakers and regulators must strengthen regulations to empower consumers to unlock new retail markets. Currently, important provisions concerning phase-out of paper bills, arrear adjustment, frequency of recharge alerts, buffer time, rebates, and data privacy are scattered across different regulatory orders or simply missing. Their incorporation within existing State frameworks will be crucial for a positive technology experience for end users. Regulators must also enable simplification and innovation in tariff design and open the retail market to new business models and prosumagers (producers, consumers, and storage users). In a progressive step, last month, the Ministry of Power proposed amendments to the Electricity Rules to enable time-variable tariffs for all smart meter users.

India is on a unique journey of meeting its growing electricity demand while decarbonising its generation sources. Smart meters comprise a critical part of the transition toolbox, by way of enabling responsible consumption, efficient energy management, and cost-effective integration of distributed energy resources. A user-centric design and deployment philosophy will be crucial for the success of India's smart metering initiative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Manipur violence

The fissures and unrest in Manipur, between the Meitei community and tribals, is an unfortunate development (Page 1 and Inside pages, May 5). This is a State that takes pride in its literacy rate and advancement.

Therefore, it is a shame to witness people resorting to despicable acts.

There ought to have been serious attempts to facilitate dialogue and discussion. There needs to be reason and debate in a civilised manner.

Hriiyio Bayo,
Manipur

Misplaced optimism?

The interview with the Home Minister, Amit Shah, "Karnataka polls important; BJP will get full majority" (Inside pages, May 5), presents a picture of extreme optimism — that the BJP would secure a thumping majority in the forthcoming elections. But, this is a scenario that has not been seen in the State so far. The BJP is in power in Karnataka though it never received a decisive mandate. The dubious 'Operation Lotus' ensured the toppling of the Congress-JD (S) government after bad apples among the Congress and the JD(S) hopped across to the BJP. The BJP has come to power more than once but it has never won a majority in the Assembly. This time, there is the anti-incumbency factor apart from corruption charges galore against the Bommai government.

Losing two prominent Lingayat faces might impact the party's chances as well in a significant number of constituencies. The State BJP unit is banking heavily on the charisma of the Prime Minister but this factor has never been a decider in State elections in the South. Karnataka is no exception to this.

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

Justice and delaying tactics

The developments in the Bilkis Bano case are symbolic of patriarchal muscle flexing. If the state tries to use tactics to scuttle the final judicial outcome, it only causes deep distrust about the motive of the government as far as women's empowerment is concerned. This is more than a minority versus the majority issue. It is a direct attack on a woman's security irrespective of her religion. The delaying tactics being employed by certain lawyers is distressing. The judiciary has to step in to question the government if it begins to walk away from ensuring women's security. The government is expected to walk the talk on this issue.

Madhusree Guha,
Kolkata

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik protest against the Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. R.V. MOORTHY

Endurance athletes

In a test of staying power, their physical and mental strength pushed to the limit, women and men wrestlers — some Olympians, some medal winners, and many who are learning the ropes — stay put at Jantar Mantar, protesting against alleged sexual harassment by one of the most powerful politicians in the sport, reports **Samridhi Tewari**

It is a day of relative peace after a night of chaos. At around 10 a.m. on May 4 in New Delhi, Vinesh Phogat, the first Indian woman wrestler to win gold in both the Commonwealth and Asian Games, sits cross-legged on a chequered mattress in Jantar Mantar, the official protest site in the capital. She is teary-eyed and exhausted. Sitting beside her are Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, both Olympic medallists. Mediapersons mill around the 200-metre mattress-filled stretch, which has been heavily barricaded by the Delhi Police.

It was allegedly because of the mattresses that an altercation unfolded the previous night between the police and the protesters. The capital has seen some unusually heavy rains in May. The protesters have said they are forced to sleep on damp mattresses. On May 3, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Somnath Bharti decided to "make it a little easier for them" by providing foldable cots. The police stopped him saying permission had not been sought for the cots. The police alleged that when they intervened, the supporters tried to forcibly remove the cots from the truck, which led to a scuffle that left five officers injured. Punia claimed that the police manhandled and abused the wrestlers.

But this conflict over cots is a minor battle in a larger war that the wrestlers have been fighting for days. They have been sitting in protest – for the second time round – since late April against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment. "Our safety is at stake," says Phogat. "We want Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to acknowledge our concerns, which are grave."

After nearly a week of protest, some action was taken against Singh. Seven women, including a minor, had complained against him at the Connaught Place police station. According to deputy commissioner of police (New Delhi) Pranav Tayal, one FIR was registered on the minor's complaint under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Another FIR was registered on the complaint of adult wrestlers under Sections 354A (sexual harassment) and 354D (stalking) of the IPC.

A demand and a dream

The wrestlers say filing an FIR won't do; they demand Singh's arrest. They have around 200-300 supporters at Jantar Mantar daily: *khap* (community) leaders, farmers, budding wrestlers and their parents and, lately, students from Delhi University. At night, around 25 protesters camp at the site, including Punia, Phogat, and Malik. They allege that the Central government has restricted water, electricity, and the number of mattresses at the site – all in a bid to wear down the protesters and ensure that they have fewer supporters.

Sometimes, people donate water bottles. And at night, when there is no electricity, the protesters use their mobile flash lights to move around. Every day, one protester is responsible for taking all their mobile phones to get them charged in cars or the Janata Dal office nearby.

Supporters at the site wake up at 5 a.m. Among them is Rishabh, 15, a resident of Sonipat in Haryana. A school-going boy with a passion for wrestling, Rishabh has been sitting at the site for days along with his 50-year-old coach, his father who is a farmer, and fellow athletes. When asked why he is there, Rishabh simply says, "My friends shouldn't fear playing any sport."

> We have left our families back home to join this fight for our sisters. The women fear consequences pertaining to their career and society. If we don't sit here, who will?
>
> **SURAJ LATHER**
> Coach

Practice then begins. "*Chalo, shabash, bhago* (C'mon, excellent, run)," says a coach, as wrestlers begin with their warm-up. But it is not easy to stretch, do squats or push-ups on the road.

Practice ends at 8 a.m. The budding wrestlers are then served almonds, juice, milk, ghee, and water in which black raisins are soaked, says Rishabh. The ingredients are sourced by the farmers in bulk from Haryana and Ghaziabad, in Uttar Pradesh.

For the protesters, the agitation is a demand for justice. For Rishabh and his friend Aditya, who have the same ask, these morning practices are also, strangely, a dream come true, for they are being trained for the first time by their heroes, Phogat and Punia.

By 9 a.m., everybody has a bath. There are toilets at the two ends of the protest site. "We wash the floors ourselves," the wrestlers claim.

An hour later, a breakfast comprising *dalia* (cracked wheat), omelette, bread, paneer, kheer, and chana is served, again brought by the farmers and other supporters. Shahrukh Khan, a 30-year-old man from Rajasthan, says he comes to the site whenever he gets a day off from work. "If we don't come here, who will stand with our sisters?" Khan says. "These allegations are serious."

A divided house

The gravity of the allegations became clear on January 18, when the first round of protests began at Jantar Mantar. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Union Sports Ministry tried to pacify the wrestlers with assurances that there would be a probe into their allegations. Back then, other prominent wrestlers including Anshu Malik, Ravi Dahiya, Sonam Malik, and Deepak Punia showed their support at the protest site or by releasing videos. The IOA formed an internal committee, which was headed by M.C. Mary Kom, to probe the allegations.

A few days later, under the directions of Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, an Oversight Committee was formed, also under Mary Kom, and was asked to submit its report to the Sports Ministry. The protest was called off.

The Committee submitted its report on April 5. The Ministry has not made the Committee's findings public. But the Committee, said the Ministry, found that the WFI did not have a proper system to address such complaints and also called for transparency and communication between the WFI and the sportspersons.

Vinesh Phogat and Sangeeta Phogat practice wrestling as they participate in a protest against WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. AP

Citing the Oversight Committee's delay in releasing the report and their loss of faith in the probe, Phogat, Punia, and Malik went on protest again demanding that Singh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Kaiserganj, be arrested and removed from all positions of power. The three of them claim that they continue to receive support from other wrestlers, but that such support is not public this time since the athletes "fear consequences." Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and sports personalities such as Abhinav Bindra, Neeraj Chopra, and Sania Mirza have publicly supported the protesters.

In an address to the supporters at Jantar Mantar, Phogat said that the Committee has not responded to the protesters regarding its findings. "It has been three months. The Sports Ministry and the Committee members don't pick up our calls. Why are the findings not public?" she said.

> They are trying to break us. And this is not about competition or participating, it is about sexual harassment.
>
> **BAJRANG PUNIA**
> Wrestler

Meanwhile, there has also been criticism of the protesters. IOA president P.T. Usha rebuked the wrestlers for taking to the streets. "The IOA has a committee and an athletes' commission. Instead of going to the streets [again], they should have come to us, but they have not," she said. After receiving backlash for her comments, she met the protesters at Jantar Mantar and assured them of support.

In order to run the day-to-day affairs of the WFI, the Sports Ministry instructed the IOA to constitute an Ad-hoc Committee. IOA Joint Secretary Kalyan Chaubey also said that the IOA investigation is under way with many witnesses yet to appear before the committee formed in January.

Meanwhile, Singh has likened the agitation to the Shaheen Bagh protests that took place against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. He has alleged that the target of the protest is not him but the BJP, and that a few families and women who have levelled allegations against him belong to the same *akhada* (traditional wrestling academies with training facilities) whose patron is Congress MP Deepender Hooda, the son of Haryana's former Chief Minister, Bhupinder Hooda.

"Wrestling activities have come to a standstill over the last four months. I say, 'Hang me,' but don't stop wrestling activities and don't play with the children's future," he said during an interaction with the media.

Singh believes that resigning would amount to an acceptance of the allegations. "Resignation is not a big deal, but I am not a criminal. My tenure is almost over. The government has formed a three-member committee. Elections [to the WFI] will be held in 45 days and my term will end after that," he said in another media interaction.

Women empowerment

At the protest site, where mikes are rented, a speaker talks about how the BJP's 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme has not helped the country as women continue to fight against harassment. A massive red banner tied to two trees reads, "Legal action must be initiated against sexual harassment." On it is a photograph of Singh photoshopped behind bars. The speeches by the three wrestlers and the supporters, which are made in Hindi, English, Punjabi, and Haryanvi, also talk about women empowerment and how women don't feel safe in the country. "*Humari beti, humari behen* (Our daughters, our sisters)" is a common refrain.

The wrestlers have also put up a white flex board, which lists 38 criminal charges against Singh, including of murder, attempt to murder, rioting, criminal intimidation. The board also cites the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986, as well as the Arms Act, 1959.

Somveer Kadian, 25, a wrestler from Haryana's Hisar, says the wrestlers have arranged for tents, bedsheets, mattresses, fans, speakers, microphones, a mini power generation set and water and food with their own money.

In his recent Instagram video, Punia said, "They are trying to break us. And this is not about competition or participating, it is about sexual harassment."

While the rains have now stopped, the damp soil and mosquitoes make it difficult for the wrestlers to sleep on the footpath. Malik, who has slathered mosquito repellent cream on herself, holds onto a police barricade and says, "When we receive medals, there is celebration. But when we question the system, why do they question us?" Her husband Satyawart Kadian, a Commonwealth Games medal-winner in wrestling, has been supporting her since the first day of the protest. "We are not leaving until every single girl receives justice," Kadian says.

At 9 p.m., with the top wrestlers having gone to bed, it is the budding wrestlers who take care of everyone. They distribute packaged thalis, which contain portions of rice, dal, dry sabzi, curd and a tiny gulab jamun, enough for one person for the night. The thalis and the food change every day depending on what the farmers procure. "Nobody here should sleep on an empty stomach. There is enough food for everybody," says Rahul Yadav, a wrestler from Ghaziabad. Food packages are also distributed to supporters, mediapersons, police personnel, and beggars who stand on the other side of the barricade.

The supporters at the site say banter between the wrestlers continues till 12.30 a.m. daily. They discuss their future, their life partners, and what this protest means for them. But every day is a battle. Speaking to the media, Phogat said, "To fight this battle, we have put our entire career and families at stake. Our only demand is that Singh should be arrested. Because the allegations are grave, we are going to sleep and eat here till we receive justice."

Suraj Lather, 29, a Karnal-based strength and conditioning coach for the wrestlers, says wrestling is a challenging sport and the wrestlers who are protesting against the WFI chief will not move an inch. "We have left our families back home to join this fight for our sisters. They cannot break our spirit. The women fear consequences pertaining to their career and society. If we don't sit here, who will?"

From Page One

Central security forces flood crisis-hit Manipur

In another major development, the State government appointed Additional Director-General of Police (Intelligence) Ashutosh Sinha as the overall operational commander "to control and bring normalcy in the State". He will report to Mr. Singh.

Officials said that Home Minister Amit Shah had cancelled his Karnataka election campaign events in order to closely monitor the situation in Manipur and seek regular updates from the State and its northeastern neighbours.

He chaired two video-conference meetings with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and other State government officials to review the security situation.

"Situation is more or less under control in the State. Minor incidents were reported from a couple of police stations," said the official of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Meanwhile, there was no gazette notification from the MHA declaring the imposition of Article 355, an emergency provision contained in Part XVIII of the Constitution.

At least 10 people are believed to have been killed by mobs, while several villages and community-specific urban localities were destroyed when clashes broke out during the course of a tribal solidarity march on Wednesday and then escalated the following day. The march was taken out in all 10 hill districts of the State to oppose the long-standing demand for Scheduled Tribe status to the non-tribal Meiteis, after a High Court directive to the State government to submit its recommendation on the issue to the Centre.

Authorities at the Centre and State are yet to release information on the number of persons killed or injured since May 3. According to a defence statement, the situation in Manipur has been brought under control as of Friday.

Curfew, imposed in eight affected districts on Wednesday, continued on Friday, while Internet services remained suspended.

Sharad Pawar takes back decision to resign

Addressing a press conference at the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Mumbai, Mr. Pawar said several Opposition leaders had urged him to reconsider his decision on the grounds that his presence was needed to unite like-minded forces in the country today.

An NCP leader, a close confidant of Mr. Pawar, told *The Hindu* that Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, and Chief Ministers M.K. Stalin, Arvind Kejriwal, Mamata Banerjee, K. Chandrasekhar Rao were among those who spoke to the NCP patriarch.

When questioned why Mr. Ajit was not present at the presser, Mr. Pawar said the former was part of the party committee that rejected his decision to step aside and had accompanied State NCP chief Jayant Patil to inform him about it.

"If anyone wishes to leave the party, no one can stop them...but there is no such situation within the NCP," he said, alluding to speculation that his nephew was planning to take a section of party leaders with him and join the ruling Eknath Shinde-BJP government in the State.

While denying suggestions of a rift within the party, Mr. Pawar also rejected reports that there were plans afoot to appoint his daughter as party national president.

"Even though I am continuing in the post of president, I am clear that there has to be a succession plan for any post. In future, I will focus on making organisational changes in the party by assigning new responsibilities and creating new leadership," he said.

The veteran leader stressed that the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance was in no way affected by this episode and that the three parties [the NCP, the Sena (UBT) and the Congress] would work towards giving the people of Maharashtra an alternative.

On the draw

Why is BJP afraid of a caste-based survey, asks Lalu Prasad

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

A day after the Patna High Court issued a stay order on the caste-based survey being conducted by the Nitish Kumar government, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad on Friday backed the exercise, claiming that most people in Bihar wanted the survey to be conducted.

Mr. Prasad also asked why the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is in the Opposition in the State, was "afraid" of the exercise.

Following the stay order, the BJP leaders attacked the Bihar government, claiming that it could not convince the court due to its lacklustre and "non-serious" attitude.

'Majority demand'

Slamming the BJP's leaders, the RJD supremo said in a tweet, "Caste-based survey is the demand of the majority of the people and it will continue to happen. Why is the BJP afraid of counting the majority of backward castes? The one who is against caste enumeration is against equality, humanity, and is a supporter of poverty, unemployment, backwardness, social and economic discrimination."

Border situation is stable, says China Foreign Minister

Qin says both sides should draw lessons from history and embark on a new path of harmonious coexistence; India has maintained that this is possible only after LAC disengagement is completed

Ananth Krishnan
Suhasini Haidar
BENAULIM, GOA

The situation along the India-China border is "generally stable" and both sides should "draw lessons from history", visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang told External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in talks on Thursday.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, in a statement on the talks released early on Friday, said Mr. Qin "pointed out that the current situation on the China-India border is generally stable" and "the two sides should continue to implement the important consensus between the leaders of the two countries, consolidate the achievements made, strictly abide by the relevant agreements and protocols, promote further cooling and easing of the border situation, and maintain sustainable peace and tranquillity in the border area".

Mr. Jaishankar on Thursday said he had "a detailed discussion with State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang of China on our bilateral relationship" and the "focus remains on resolving outstanding issues and ensuring peace and tranquillity in the border areas," following their talks on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Benaulim, Goa.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with his Chinese counterpart, Qin Gang, at the SCO meeting in Goa on Friday. PTI

Mr. Qin and other Chinese officials have described the border situation as being "stable" and moving to what they have called normalised management, and asked India to place the issue in an "appropriate" position in the relationship.

Indian officials have reiterated their view that relations with China still remained "abnormal" and have called for urgency in completing the disengagement process in the two remaining friction areas in Depsang and Demchok.

China has dragged its feet in the slow-moving disengagement talks that have continued for three years.

'Lessons from history'

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of troops remain in forward areas. India has also called for de-induction of these troops and de-escalation to return to the April 2020 status quo, which China has rejected.

Mr. Qin described both countries as "as the two most populous developing countries in the world, and both are in a critical period of modernisation".

"We should draw lessons from history, approach our bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, respect, learn from and make achievements from each other, and embark on a new path of harmonious coexistence, peaceful development and common rejuvenation among major neighbours, so as to lend impetus to national rejuvenation and inject stability and positive energy into world peace and development," he said.

"China is willing to work with India to carry out bilateral consultations and exchanges, enhance dialogue and cooperation under the multilateral framework, deepen coordination and cooperation on international and regional issues," he added.

India has, however, maintained that this would only be possible if the Line of Actual Control (LAC) disengagement is completed and peace is restored on the borders.

Real-time, operational picture among several automation initiatives of Army

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Army formations at all levels – from the Commander on the ground to the Corps level – will soon have a real-time, common operating picture, with information and data from various sensors and inputs fused into one comprehensive image for quick decision-making, according to defence sources, who said that this is a result of one of several automation projects in the process of being rolled out.

'Project Sanjay' is in the process of being deployed after extensive validation carried out in plains, deserts and mountains. PTI

A new Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS) under Project Sanjay is in the process of being deployed, after extensive validation carried out in the plains, deserts, and mountains.

"Under BSS, the aim is to have surveillance centres for all field formations by December 2025. It will integrate thousands of sensors which will enable provision of an integrated surveillance picture to commanders and staff at all levels, besides completing the sensor-shooter grid by integrating with the Artillery Combat Command and Control System (ACCCS)," a source said.

The system also integrates data on the movements of India's adversaries received from various sources across borders, including sensors, satellites, UAVs or unmanned aerial vehicles, and patrols.

This is among a series of automation projects being rolled out which are expected to cumulatively improve operational efficiency, enhance battlefield awareness for Commanders on the ground, and also provide functional efficiency for human resource management, logistics, inventory management, medical services and other administrative functions, sources said.

Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL), Ghaziabad, is the project's system integrator, and after hundreds of trials across terrains, it has shown a rate of success of more than 95%, meeting the army's aspirations and requirements. As part of the trials, a few surveillance centres were set up under two corps of the Army, and with the bulk production clearance now granted, the full project will be implemented by the end of 2025, the source said. The original cost was estimated to be around ₹2,700 crore, but has now been revised to ₹2,400 crore and is set to go down further.

To enable these projects, the imminent operationalisation of the secure Network for Spectrum will provide an abundance of bandwidth to the services, the source stated. Further, the Army is setting up captive data centres across the country and these will be fully operational this year.

Complementing the BSS is the Army Information and Decision Support System, an upgraded and redesigned version of the erstwhile Combat Information Decision Support System, which will integrate inputs from all operational and managerial information systems.

A decision support system called the Situational Awareness Module for the Army (SAMA) has successfully integrated inputs from ACCCS, BSS, e-Sitrep, and the Management Information Systems Organisation.

Centre looks into options to counter EU's carbon tax plan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry is exploring various options to cope with the European Union's decision to introduce a Carbon Tax, including retaliatory tariff measures, a challenge at the World Trade Organisation and measures to help smaller Indian exporters, a top trade official said.

The EU plans to introduce a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) that will entail a monitoring mechanism for imports from producers deploying non-green technologies starting this October and a tax levy from January 2026. This is likely to hit Indian metal and engineering products' exports to the EU.

Addressing this challenge is one of the top agenda items for the Commerce Department and several options are being examined, Director-General of Foreign Trade Santosh Kumar Sarangi said at a meeting hosted by engineering goods exporters' body, EEPC India, on Thursday.

"How do we create mechanism which will support micro, small and medium enterprises [MSMEs], our steel industry, our aluminium industry... is something on which the Department of Commerce, the Ministry of Steel and the MSME Ministry, all are trying to work together," he said.

EEPC India chairman Arun Kumar Garodia made a pitch for including the primary iron and steel sector into the Remissions of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme and raising the scheme's benefits for engineering products. "The rebate given by RoDTEP for engineering sector is in the range of 0.5% to 1%, which is lower than the incentives provided under the earlier merchandise exports from India scheme that offered incentives in the range of 2% to 5%," he stated.

HC seeks presence of Health Secretary in rare diseases case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ordered the presence of the Secretary of the Union Health Ministry before it, following non-compliance of its order directing release of ₹5 crore for children suffering from rare diseases.

Stating that it cannot turn a blind eye to the medical condition of 40 children suffering from rare diseases, Justice Prathiba M. Singh said the effectiveness of the medicines already administered to such children would be completely obliterated if further doses are not continued.

The order came on a batch of petitions relating to treatment of rare diseases.

The judge asked the official to be physically present in court on May 10, when she would consider whether notice of contempt ought to be issued.

The order came on a batch of petitions relating to treatment of rare diseases.

"The Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare shall physically remain present in court on the next date of hearing. On the next date, the court shall consider whether notice of contempt ought to be issued in these matters. List on May 10, 2023," the court ordered.

In the present batch of cases, Justice Singh said the court faces an "extreme situation where almost 40 children who are before the Court, are likely to suffer physical and mental injury and deterioration of health if further funds are not released for their treatment".

V-C, Director of SHUATS perpetrated mass conversion, U.P. police tell SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh police, in the Supreme Court, have accused that Vice-Chancellor of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) Rajendra Bihari Lal and its Director, Vinod Bihari Lal, are the "main perpetrators" of a mass religious conversion programme, which involves foreign funds from about 20 countries.

The police said that Mr. Lal was actually a "notorious criminal" involved in 38 cases of various nature, including cheating and murder, across the State in the last two decades.

On March 3, the Supreme Court had stepped in to protect both men from arrest by the Uttar Pradesh police in an urgent hearing.

They had been accused of "subjecting 90 Hindus and Muslims to conversion to Christianity" at the Evangelical Church of India in Fatehpur through undue influence, coercion and allurement.

Inspector's affidavit

The affidavit filed by a circle inspector said the pastor of the church "revealed that he and his accomplices are involved in conversion of Hindus and Muslims into Christianity".

It takes 40 days to complete the process of conversion.

The affidavit said the pamphlets were found promising ₹35,000 to people who get themselves converted to Christianity.

"Further if someone induces other people to get converted, then they will get an extra bonus amount," the police claimed.

The affidavit said that investigation has unearthed that ₹34,44,54,855 was received in the FCRA account of the SHUATS from various countries, including the U.S., Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, Germany, Canada, the U.K., etc.

The Allahabad High Court had refused anticipatory bail in the case in February.

"It can also be interpreted in a manner that the allegations of mass conversion as levelled against the applicants who are influential persons, and they are channelising the funds collected from overseas groups for the above purpose. Such act shows the gravity of offence. Therefore, the instant case is not fit for grant of anticipatory bail as the issue of security and violation of citizens' right to freedom of conscience and right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion is involved," the High Court had reasoned in its order on February 28.

Dhankhar meets King Charles III

Press Trust of India
LONDON

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar interacted with King Charles III at a reception soon after his arrival here on Friday, to attend the majestic Coronation ceremony of the U.K.'s monarch at the Westminster Abbey on Saturday.

Mr. Dhankhar, accompanied by his wife Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar, will join an estimated 100 Heads of State and government from around the world invited to the historic crowning of Britain's new monarch. He was also invited to Buckingham Palace for a reception hosted by King Charles on Friday evening.

Pakistan Minister is a promoter of terror industry: Jaishankar

SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting concludes with several outcomes but is overshadowed by the spat between India, Pakistan over J&K, terrorism

Suhasini Haidar
BENAULIM, GOA

Shots fired: The External Affairs Minister said India-China relations cannot be normal if peace and tranquillity are disturbed. AFP

Calling Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari a "promoter, justifier and spokesperson" of terrorism, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday hit out at Islamabad for its continued support to terror groups.

Speaking at the end of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Council For Foreign Ministers (SCO-CFM) that he chaired, Mr. Jaishankar said Indians felt "outrage" over a incident on Friday, referring to the firing in Rajouri in which five Indian soldiers were killed.

The spat between the two countries came even as the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting agreed to strengthen cooperation in a number of areas, including economic and technological spheres. Announcing the results of the Ministers' deliberations, Mr. Jaishankar said India's proposals on making English an additional official language to Russian and Chinese at the SCO, and setting up working groups on innovation, start-ups and traditional medicines were being discussed.

The Ministers agreed on a 15-point decision document that will be taken forward to the SCO Heads of State Summit due on July 3-4 in Delhi.

After the customary greetings on Friday morning, Mr. Jaishankar welcomed his counterparts to the SCO-CFM. However, in their speeches, both Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Bhutto traded veiled accusations over cross-border terrorism and the amendment to Article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Briefing journalists in the evening, Mr. Jaishankar said he was forced to distinguish between hosting the Pakistan Foreign Minister as a member of the SCO, and "treating him differently" for Mr. Bhutto's comments on terrorism.

"As a Foreign Minister of an SCO member state, Mr. Bhutto Zardari was treated accordingly. As a promoter, justifier and spokesperson of a terrorism industry which is the mainstay of Pakistan, his positions were called out and countered, including at the SCO meeting itself," Mr. Jaishankar said.

Mr. Jaishankar also responded sharply to questions about China's official statement issued after his meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Qin Gang, on Thursday, that stated that the situation at the Line of Actual control (LAC) was "stable".

"That's not the issue," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that India and China need to take the disengagement process forward. "India China relations are not normal and cannot be normal if peace and tranquillity are disturbed," he said.

In his statement at the CFM, Mr. Qin did not refer to the situation at the LAC but spoke about the Belt and Road initiative. He said that Beijing would hold a major BRI conference this year with all parties to take the cooperation forward.

India has consistently opposed the inclusion of the BRI in the SCO statements, and regularly abstains paragraphs that refer to the Chinese infrastructure initiative, which other SCO countries endorse.

Earlier, addressing the SCO meeting, Mr. Bhutto called on members not to "weaponise terrorism for diplomatic point scoring". In a reference to the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, he also spoke of "unilateral and illegal measures by states in violation of international law and UNSC resolutions".

Mr. Jaishankar responded that Pakistan should "wake up and smell the coffee". "Article 370 is history", he said, referring to Mr. Bhutto's contention that he made during the press conference as well as in an interview to *The Hindu* that India must reverse its moves of August 5, 2019. "The only issue over Kashmir up for discussion with Pakistan is over when they will give up their occupation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)," Mr. Jaishankar added.

(With inputs from Ananth Krishnan)

'We would like Indian govt. to create an environment conducive for talks'

Pakistan Foreign Minister says India's actions on August 5, 2019 slammed the door shut on the process to resolve issues between the countries; water should not be weaponised and politicised, he says on reopening talks on Indus Water Treaty

INTERVIEW

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Suhasini Haidar

Pakistan won't engage India bilaterally until some of the August 5, 2019 moves in Jammu and Kashmir are reversed, says its Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Speaking during his visit to Goa for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting, Mr. Bhutto said, however, that he hoped the SCO countries could build a constructive agenda for regional integration. Excerpts:

You are the first Pakistani Foreign Minister to visit India since 2011. Did you request a bilateral meeting with the Indian External Affairs Minister before you came to the SCO meeting in Goa?

My visit here is in the context of the SCO and is exclusively for the SCO. Pakistan's bilateral relations with India, or our position post the August 5, 2019 actions in Kashmir, have not changed. So therefore, in that context, I have not requested for a bilateral meeting with the host country's Minister for External Affairs.

Were you surprised that you were invited at all, given that the last time you and Mr. Jaishankar were in the same city was in – New York (December 2022) where you made personal attacks on Prime Minister Modi?

Well, I don't think anything I said was personal and there's nothing personal in diplomacy and in politics. I don't think that should colour anything. It is the responsibility of the host country and in conducting their official responsibility they have to invite every member to the SCO, and Pakistan is a member and actually became a member at the same time as India did, in 2017.

Can the two countries still discuss other issues such as health, religious pilgrimages, etc.?

There is genuine willingness on the Pakistan side to address all issues and resolve all issues through dialogue. But the actions of August 5 really slammed the door shut on that process.

We would like India, the Indian government to create an environment conducive to talks and as soon as we return to the *status quo* of August 4, 2019, I believe we can engage in a meaningful dialogue.

...On trade. Do you think that trade is something where there could be talks?

Trade or anything else can be something that, again, would be a result of a dialogue. And as far as Pakistan's position is concerned, vis-a-vis a meaningful dialogue, that at the moment remains unchanged.

But over the decades, Pakistan has consistently rejected Article 370. They've said this is a part of the Indian Constitution. Why then do you think that the door is slammed shut?

I think that this slammed the door shut less because India violated its own Constitution, but more because India violated international law, United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Yet Pakistan is isolated in that no other part of the international community is using August 5 as a reason not to engage with India – not the UN bodies, not the OIC countries.

I can't speak for other people's foreign policy or how they decide to react to violations of international law and UN Security Council resolutions.

I do believe, given the events in Ukraine, there's a newfound appreciation for United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law, particularly in the West.

What is Pakistan's response to India's specific request to reopen the Indus Water Treaty talks?

Pakistan firmly believes that water should not be weaponised, that water should not be politicised. The Indus Water Treaty is used as the gold standard the world over.

Pakistan has concerns over a couple of hydro power projects and we would like to resolve these concerns through the existing treaty.

India says no talks are possible without an end to cross-border terrorism. There was an attack on an Army truck in which five soldiers were killed, which the Army indicated was directed from Pakistan...

I don't think Pakistan has been blamed in any way by the Indian government or the Indian authorities [for Poonch attack]. I condemn terrorism, Pakistan condemns terrorism. And I am personally a victim of terrorism. I empathise not only with every Pakistani who has suffered but any citizen across the world from India to the United States who have suffered at the hands of terrorists-...But, we also have legitimate concerns.

Those who speak about talks and cross-border terror not going hand in hand will have to respond as to what Kulbhushan Jadhav was doing on Pakistani soil, and the Samjhauta Express case where Pakistanis are still waiting for justice.

But it was Pakistan that was on the Financial Action Task Force's grey list for four years. Not any other country, not India...

Pakistan is the only country in the world to have simultaneously completed not one, but two FATF task lists, and that too before the time frame that they had for us. That speaks of how seriously Pakistan is taking this issue, to counter terrorist financing and money laundering and an arrest record speaks for itself on that front.

Why is it so difficult to bring two men to justice as the FATF itself had demanded: Hafiz Saeed of LeT and Masood Azhar of JeM, both wanted for major attacks – the Parliament attack and the Mumbai attacks"?

I can't speak for cases that are ongoing and sub-judice. I do have the right to ask what happened to the Samjhauta Express attacks where people were freed. No one was convicted.

To turn to Pakistan's other problems –the IMF spring session is over and it seems quite clear that Pakistan is not receiving the bailout that it had hoped for...

I don't think there's any question of us not being part of the IMF programme, we are taking the difficult, yet necessary decisions in order to be part of it. Pakistan is facing a unique sort of situation which I have described as a perfect storm. We have the pandemic...the war between Russia and Ukraine...a climate catastrophe-...So forums such as the SCO, where all member-states work collectively on economy, on security, on regional integration, can perhaps rise to meet the challenges that we are facing.

Full interview at: bit.ly/Bilawalbhutto

Appeal in SC against order on ST status of community

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Hill Areas Committee Chairperson and BJP MLA Dinganglung Gangmei has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court challenging the March 27 order of the Manipur High Court on Scheduled Tribe status for the Meitei community, which is at the centre of escalating tensions in the State.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice M.V. Muralidaran had directed the State government to submit its recommendation on Meiteis to the Centre. It had also said the State government shall consider the representation for inclusion expeditiously, preferably within four weeks of receiving the order.

After the high court order was made public last month, the HAC had on April 20 passed a unanimous resolution condemning the order, saying that the HAC was neither consulted nor made a party to the case.

In the backdrop of the high court's order and HAC resolution, protests by existing ST communities grew. On May 3, during a solidarity march by tribal groups, violence broke out.

IAF carrying out sorties from Assam airfields to watch over Manipur

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Keeping a watch: The Army and Assam Rifles personnel conduct a flag march in the violence-hit areas of Imphal on Friday. PTI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been undertaking continuous sorties from two airfields in Assam to keep a watch over trouble spots and move additional troops to Manipur.

On Friday, a defence spokesperson said that the IAF undertook the sorties, employing C17 Globemaster and AN32 aircraft while the Army and Assam Rifles personnel rescued about 13,000 people from the affected areas, and sheltered them in secure defence and government establishments. Some people, mostly tribals, were escorted from Imphal to their own hometowns and villages in convoys of vehicles.

At least 10 people are believed to have been killed by mobs and several villages and community-specific urban localities were destroyed after a "Tribal Solidarity March" was taken out in all 10 hill districts of the State to oppose the demand for Scheduled Tribe status to the non-tribal Meiteis, Manipur's largest community.

Vungzagin Valte, a BJP legislator and former Minister, who was grievously injured in a mob attack at his residence in Imphal on Thursday, was flown to New Delhi in an air ambulance early Friday morning. He belongs to the Kuki-Zomi group of tribes.

Houses of senior police officers belonging to this ethnic group were also not spared. Reports coming from Imphal said the houses of a former MP and a former Congress MLA were damaged too.

The armed forces have shifted more than 9,000 people to defence set-ups and government establishments for safety.

Public transport remained suspended as fuel prices were hiked by at least ₹25 per litre, while the Northeast Frontier Railway short-terminated two trains servicing Manipur.

Commando shot dead

A CRPF CoBRA commando on leave was shot dead by armed assailants in his village in Manipur's Churachandpur district on Friday, officials said. Constable Chonkholen Haokip of delta company of the 204th CoBRA battalion was killed, they said.

The circumstances in which he was killed are not clear, but it is understood that some assailants donning fatigues entered his village and killed him. It was not immediately known if the shooting was linked to the ongoing violence over the Meitei issue in the State.

(With PTI inputs)

Christian groups urge Centre to start peace talks

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

Leading Indian Christian organisations have called on the government to start a dialogue to restore peace and normalcy in Manipur. "We are deeply saddened by the recent events that have unfolded in Manipur. We appeal to the State and the Union government to engage in constructive dialogue with all stakeholders to address the underlying causes of the conflict," Vijayesh Lal, general secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of India, said in a statement.

"There is no internet in the region. While the Kukis and other tribals in the districts close to Imphal are the main targets as a community, the churches targeted include those of the Christians in the Meitei community," All India Catholic Union spokesman John Dayal said.

Meanwhile, Metropolitan Archbishop of Bangalore Peter Machado expressed concern that "seventeen churches are either vandalised, desecrated or defiled. Some are still burning." The attacks on churches in Manipur, which started on Wednesday, continued unabated till Friday.

Meghalaya organises special flights to shift people from Imphal

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Conrad K. Sangma

The National People's Party-led Meghalaya government has organised special flights to bring back people stranded in Imphal, the capital of violence-hit Manipur.

The stranded citizens of Meghalaya include 60 students of the Agriculture University and the Food Technology Institute in Manipur and 25 members of Shillong's Lajong football team.

A statement from the Chief Minister's Office said the special flights were organised in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Director-General of Assam Rifles based in Meghalaya, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and private airlines.

A three-member team led by Meghalaya Health Minister Ampareen M. Lyngdoh has reached Imphal for monitoring the evacuation process, the statement said.

More than 25 people were on their way to Meghalaya via Assam's principal city Guwahati by Friday afternoon.

Arrangements have also been made to bring back more than 60 students by special buses via Nagaland and Assam, officials in Meghalaya said.

"We are bringing back our stranded citizens, who wish to return home through regular flights and chartered flights with special permission. The Lajong football team has already been escorted to the airport, and we are making every effort to ensure safe and timely return of all our citizens," Meghalaya's Chief Minister, Conrad K. Sangma said.

"I would like to urge the students from Meghalaya studying in Manipur and their parents to not panic and be calm," Mr. Sangma said.

The Meghalaya government also launched a helpline – 18003453644 – for citizens who may require further assistance.

President's rule should be imposed, says Congress

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil his duty towards violence-hit Manipur instead of being busy in election campaign in Karnataka and sought Home Minister Amit Shah's sacking for his "complete failure" in maintaining peace in the northeastern State. The party also demanded President's rule in Manipur.

"Seeking votes in Karnataka is against your *kartavya* [duty] and we want to remind you that your duty is to save Manipur instead," Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said. She charged that the Home Minister has totally failed, and added, "What moral right do you have to remain in your post? Actually, President's rule should be imposed immediately by invoking Article 356 and attempts should be made to bring back peace in the State," the Congress leader said. All India Congress Committee general secretary Randeep Surjewala shared a government order on social media and pointed that the State government has written that it is "pleased to authorise shoot at sight orders".

INBRIEF

Prime Minister Modi to attend Bastille Day Parade in Paris

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted the invite from French President Emmanuel Macron to be the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade in Paris on July 14, the External Affairs Ministry announced on Friday. An official press release informed that a contingent of the Indian armed forces will participate in the parade, which marks "liberty, equality and fraternity". This is the second time that an Indian Prime Minister will be the Guest of Honour for the July 14 celebrations. Mr. Modi's presence in Paris to attend the event is being described as a gesture of special significance as India and France are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the strategic partnership which was launched in 1998.

Bangladesh flight makes emergency landing at Patna

A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight from Dhaka to Kathmandu with 77 passengers on board made an emergency landing at Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport in Patna on Friday due to technical problems, an official said. The flight-BBC 371 was diverted to Patna after pilot reported technical problems, a senior official of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) at Patna said. "All the 77 passengers on board are safe," he said. "Engineers are inspecting the aircraft. The aircraft will be allowed to take off only after clearance from aircraft engineers and pilot", the official added. PTI

Take down videos claiming spices contain cow dung: HC

The Delhi High Court has directed Internet giant Google to take down from YouTube certain "defamatory" videos, which targeted major brands including 'Catch', by alleging that Indian spices contain urine and cow dung. The Court said the two defendant channels – *TYR* and *Views NNews* – maliciously uploaded the videos containing derogatory and untrue remarks against Indian spices, particularly those sold under 'Catch' brand. The order came on a suit by Dharampal Satyapal Sons Pvt. Ltd. seeking permanent restraint against defamation and disparagement of its products manufactured and sold under their registered trademark 'Catch.'

Bihar to pay ₹4,000 crore for failure in waste management

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has levied ₹4,000 crore environmental compensation on Bihar for failing to scientifically manage solid and liquid waste. A Bench of chairperson Justice A.K. Goel directed that the amount be deposited in a ring-fenced account within two months and was to be operated according to the Chief Secretary's directions only for waste management in the State. The amount will be used for setting up solid waste processing facilities, remediation of legacy waste and setting up of sewage treatment plants, and faecal sludge and septage treatment plants so there remains no gap, the NGT Bench said. PTI

5 soldiers killed in gunfight with militants in Rajouri

Encounter occurred during a combing operation by security forces against those responsible for the April 20 attack in Poonch that left five dead; Army says casualties likely among terrorists too

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Five soldiers were killed and another was injured in a gunfight with militants on Friday in the thick jungles of the Rajouri-Poonch sector of Jammu division.

The incident occurred during a combing operation by the security forces to track down the attackers who killed five soldiers in an ambush on April 20.

The encounter took place on a day when Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was in Goa to attend the conclave of Foreign Ministers from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India has strongly raised the issue of terrorism during the ongoing meetings of the SCO in Goa.

The People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), which claimed responsibility for the April 20 attack, again purportedly posted messages online and claimed its role in the encounter. "You walk into our ambushes. We kill you, we win. The world knows we are here," a reported PAFF claim online read.

High alert: Security personnel stationed near the site of an encounter with terrorists in the Kandi forest area of Rajouri. PTI

The gunfight with the hiding militants broke out in the Kandi forest of the Rajouri sector in the Pir Panjal Valley around 7.30 a.m. on Friday.

The Army said an explosive device was triggered when a search team established contact with a group of hiding terrorists "who were well-entrenched in a cave in the Kandi forests". The Army said five soldiers were killed in the blast.

One critically injured soldier was shifted to the Command Hospital, Udhampur. Security agencies, informed sources said, will also be looking into the possible angles of hiding militants floating a tip-off and laying a trap for security forces to inflict a major damage.

The Army said there was a likelihood of casualties in the terrorist group. However, no body has been retrieved so far. Initial assessments suggest two to four militants could be hiding in the area.

"The operation is in progress. The area is thickly vegetated with rocky and steep cliffs," the Army said.

Multiple Army columns have been conducting "relentless intelligence-based operations" to flush out a group of terrorists involved in an ambush on an Army truck in the Tota Gali area of Bhata Dhurian in the Jammu region on April 20, which left five soldiers dead and another injured, the Army said.

Friday's operation was launched following specific information about the presence of terrorists in the Kandi forest. There was no official word on the possibility of the April 20 attackers being trapped at the encounter site.

Meanwhile, additional teams of the Army from the vicinity have been directed to the site of the encounter.

Congress counters Amit Shah's claim on language promotion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It says that while ₹640 cr. was spent to promote Sanskrit, only ₹3 crore was spent on Kannada

Contesting Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claim that the Narendra Modi-led Central government promotes all Indian languages equally, the Congress on Friday cited a few examples to suggest the contrary.

In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Shah had said that the perception that Modi government wanted to impose Hindi at the cost of regional languages was a "political campaign" against the government. The Home Minister made the statement in the context of the upcoming Karnataka Assembly election, where the politics of regional identity has played a key role in the poll campaign.

Responding to the interview, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh took to Twitter to challenge this claim. "The HM has claimed in an interview that the BJP stands for 'promotion' of all languages. Is that why the Modi Govt has spent ₹640 cr to promote Sanskrit and JUST ₹3 cr to support promotion of Kannada, one of the six classical languages of the country?" asked Mr. Ramesh.

"Is that why the man who insulted the great Kuvempu (who penned the State anthem) was made Chairman of the text book revision committee by the 40% Commission Sarkara in Karnataka?" he added.

Mr. Ramesh, who heads the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, also noted that "a tradition has begun with the Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to do away with English names for laws and replace them with Hindi names."

"I could go on and on, Mr. HM. But then you work for a man whose motto has been *Asatyameva Jayate* [Untruth wins]," he said.

CBI raids office of Jet Airways, founder's house in fraud case

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday conducted raids at seven locations in Mumbai, including the office of Jet Airways airlines and its founder Naresh Goyal's residence in connection with an alleged fraud of ₹538 crore in Canara Bank.

Jet Airways (India) Limited, its founder chairman Mr. Goyal, wife Anita Goyal and former airline director Gaurang Shetty have been named as accused in the First Information Report (FIR), which has been registered on a complaint received from Canara Bank.

Financial stress

Since August 2018, as alleged, the company started claiming that it was facing liquidity and operational issues. It had come under financial stress and was not able to service its payment or repayment obligations.

In April 2019, a cash-strapped Jet Airways suspended its operations. The Canara Bank loan account became a non-performing asset on June 5, 2019. A forensic audit of the company's financials during the check period from April 1, 2011 to June 30, 2019, later revealed alleged diversion and siphoning of funds.

In the FIR, it has been alleged that related parties were paid ₹1,410.41 crore out of the total commission expenses; there was siphoning of funds through Jet Lite (India) Ltd. by way of making advances/investments and subsequently writing off of the same by making a provision.

During 2011-18, ₹14,552.44 crore was given as loan to Jet Lite and in return ₹13,529.62 crore was received.

The bank alleged that Jet Airways was transferring borrowed funds to subsidiary/group companies through various ways, instead of using them for the intended purpose.

MGNREGS workers may get text message confirming their attendance

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

MGNREGS workers protested when the Centre made it mandatory to digitally capture their attendance using a mobile-based application four months ago, complaining that they had no way of confirming whether their attendance had been accurately recorded until their wages landed in their bank accounts. In response, the Rural Development Ministry is now considering providing a text confirmation of attendance to workers at the end of each work day or the end of one work schedule.

The mobile app for attendance replaced physical muster rolls, causing a widespread outcry from many workers enrolled with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGS) , especially women who comprised 57.4% of workers in 2022-23. Many of the aggrieved workers complaining about patchy internet skewing their attendance records, and the opacity of the new system, have been sitting on protest at Jantar Mantar for nearly 60 days.

Finding solutions: MGNREGS workers during their protest, at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

The attendance recorded on National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) is uploaded in real time on the central portal for MGNREGS, with the government arguing that this brings in more transparency and aids in controlling corruption. In a bid to reach out and listen to the complaints, officials from the Ministries of Rural Development and Finance, and the National Informatics Centre met over 60 activists working in the field on May 2.

"We are cognisant of the complaints that the workers have had of not knowing if their attendance is recorded, or of receiving wages for fewer days than they worked for. To fix it, we are looking at the possibility of sending them individually a text message either at the end of their working day or end of the work schedule, detailing their attendance records," a senior Ministry official said. The Ministry is now working to collect the mobile numbers of active workers. "The database that we have is outdated, and for us to take this measure, we will have to start from scratch," the official added.

During the interaction, the officials conceded that there are some problems with the NMMS application. According to sources, the officials accepted that patchy internet could raise challenges and they are working on offering solutions. Exclusion of workers because of the application or non-payment of wages is not acceptable, they noted. They also conceded that the application's main thrust to upload real-time, geotagged pictures from the worksites aimed at reducing corruption, fails in its aim, since there is no mechanism as of now to tally the photographs regularly.

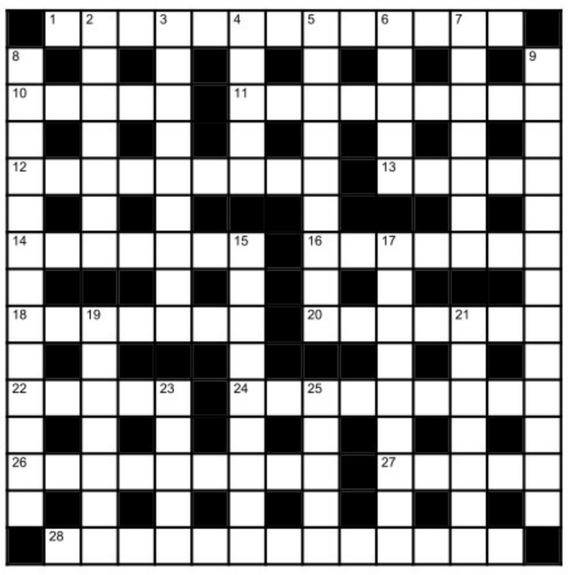
"They have assured us that they are working towards fixing all these problems," said one of the attendees.

TH CROSSWORD + 13858

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Mark is a hindrance for correspondence - a mark of shame? (7,6)
10 Metal tag - silver allowed (5)
11 Sober, gone to get some money (9)
12 Helicopter, to spur on for the winner (9)
13 Small movie "In the abyss" (5)
14 Player on ground - relief having dismissed, finally (7)
16 Bad weather? Rent a party! (7)
18 External layer made possible for top honchos (7)
20 Sri Lanka is great in a way (7)
22 Crowd departs, leaders left the instruments (5)
24 Ruined men resort to sabotage (9)
26 Dream finally, spellbound (9)
27 Enjoy theory, odd ones off the recorder (5)
28 New outbreak on offensive scene gets first cut (13)

Down

2 Record figure all around German city (7)
3 Right to trade freely, millions in port (9)
4 Perfect demand (5)
5 Extreme unction, girl gets worn out (4,5)
6 Starts to walk in rapid pace, the fool (5)
7 To pick half rate could be complex, in a way (7)
8 Composed theme song for a TV serial (4,2,7)
9 Blending of the tea in beginning is high tech (5,2,3,3)
15 Divide weight in the middle, has to be given up (9)
17 Anagrammatise back reach (9)
19 Job in Morocco for a preacher (7)
21 Dotty - place first dot as told between the eyes and on the ear (7)
23 Steps for song underway (5)
25 Parties were initially secular, they're no more now (5)

SUDOKU

								1
	3			4		6		5
	8		7	6	5		9	
		8		3			7	
			9		7			
	9			1		5		
	5		3	7	2		6	
4		6		5			2	
3								

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5790 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

V	O	T	I	N	G	■	D	W
E	■	A	■	A	■	H	■	I
H	O	N	E	Y	M	O	O	N
E	■	G	■	P	■	R	■	D
M	A	R	T	Y	R	S	■	I
E	■	A	■	I	■	E	■	N
N	A	M	E	D	■	C	A	S
T	■	■	■	A	■	H	■	T
■	D	R	A	W	N	E	A	R
A	■	O	■	■	■	S	■	U
B	U	S	H	T	I	T	■	M
E	■	T	■	H	■	N	■	E
L	A	R	G	O	■	U	N	N
I	■	U	■	N	■	T	■	T
A	L	M	A	G	E	S	T	■

A	R	F	I	S	H			
■	A	■	N	■	U			
B	I	S	O	N				
■	A	■	I	■	G			
I	N	T	E	G	E	R		
■	■	■	H	■	Y			
C	A	S	T	R	A	T	E	
■	E	■	■	■	S			
T	R	E	N	T				
R	■	N	■	A				
M	E	A	N	D	E	R		
C	■	O	■	T				
U	N	N	A	T	U	R	A	L
E	■	S	■	E				
A	D	D	E	N	D			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	4	1	5	3	9	8	6
5	6	3	2	9	8	7	1	4
9	8	1	7	4	6	2	3	5
4	3	8	5	2	7	6	9	1
1	9	5	6	3	4	8	2	7
6	7	2	9	8	1	5	4	3
3	5	9	4	7	2	1	6	8
8	1	7	3	6	9	4	5	2
2	4	6	8	1	5	3	7	9

FAITH

Morals from Nachiketas

People may undertake good deeds such as performing poojas or homas either in anticipation of fulfilment of some desires or without any expectations. Scriptures say that in the first one it should be flawless while in the second even if there be any omission or commission, it can be ignored. Reference from Katopanishad says sage Vajasrawasar was performing a yagna aiming at some benefits. There were some flaws in the rituals and his son Nachiketas objected to the same.

When people develop angry, they lose themselves in a fit of rage. When the child Nachiketas asked his father, "To whom you are going to offer me", the reply of the father to give him to the God of Death was an outcome of anger.

Guests should be treated well (*Athithidevo Bhava*). People should not be indifferent in entertaining them. It is said that the following ill-effects may accrue when a guest was not well received or not offered food – good news or happenings that we anticipate may not come; companion of good people will be lost; benefits of all good deeds may be wiped off; we may be bereft of health, wealth, peace and prosperity, said Brahma Sri Mani Dravid in a discourse.

Nachiketas was in the abode of Yama for three days without food. Yama was afraid of the sins accruing to him and offered three boons to Nachiketas. For the third boon when Nachiketas asked Yama to explain "what is life after death?", Yama tried to divert from the question and instead offered material things but Nachiketas refused them saying they are only ephemeral. At the insistence of Nachiketas, he was taught Atmavidya, the everlasting bliss.

KATHMANDU

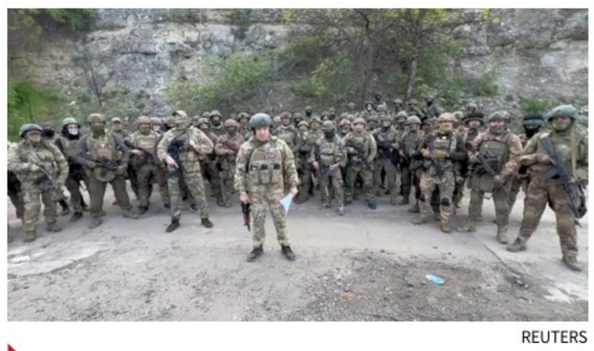
Nepal's RSP withdraws support to the Prachanda-led government

REUTERS

Nepal's Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP) has decided to withdraw its support to the Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' government and instead stay in the Opposition. The move will not immediately affect the position of the Prachanda-led government, but it may result in a political crisis after some time. PTI

MOSCOW

Russia's Wagner chief threatens to pull troops out of Bakhmut



REUTERS

Russian paramilitary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin threatened to pull his frontline fighters from Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine next week because of ammunition shortages, berating Army chiefs in a video. Mr. Prigozhin's Wagner group has spearheaded the grinding, months-long Russian assault on Bakhmut. AFP

PORT SUDAN

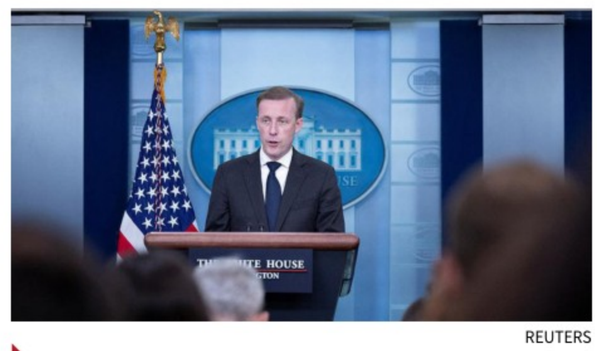
Civilians complain of neglect as fighting rages on in Khartoum

REUTERS

Heavy gunfire echoed around Khartoum on Friday as civilians trapped in the Sudanese capital said the Army and the rival paramilitary forces were fighting on and ignoring their plight. "Its been four days without electricity... We are the victims of a war that we aren't a part of. No one cares about us," a citizen said. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan to visit Saudi Arabia



REUTERS

U.S. President Joe Biden's National Security Adviser will travel to Saudi Arabia on the weekend for talks with Saudi leaders as well as Indian and Emirati officials. Jake Sullivan's trip, which starts on Saturday, comes as relations between Washington and Riyadh have been strained since Mr. Biden's visit to the kingdom in July 2022. AFP

COVID pandemic is no longer an emergency, declares WHO

However, taking note of the recent spike in cases in Southeast Asia and West Asia, the UN health agency says that even though the emergency phase was over, the pandemic hasn't ended

Associated Press
GENEVA

The World Health Organization said on Friday that COVID-19 no longer qualifies as a global emergency, marking a symbolic end to the devastating coronavirus pandemic that triggered once-unthinkable lockdowns, upended economies and killed millions of people worldwide.

The announcement, made more than three years after WHO declared the coronavirus an international crisis, offers a coda to a pandemic that stirred fear and suspicion, handwringing and finger-pointing across the globe.

Recent past: The 'Lantern Dining Experience' developed by a Japanese hotel in 2022 to help customers avoid COVID masks. AFP

Not the end

The UN health agency's officials said that even though the emergency phase was over, the pandemic hasn't ended. They pointed to the recent spikes in cases in Southeast Asia and the West Asia to support their case.

WHO says thousands of people are still dying from the virus every week, and millions of others are suffering from debilitating, long-term effects.

"It's with great hope that I declare COVID-19 over as a global health emergency," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

"That does not mean COVID-19 is over as a global health threat," he said, adding he wouldn't hesitate to reconvene experts to assess the situation should a new variant "put our world in peril."

Downward trend

Mr. Tedros said the pandemic had been on a downward trend for more than a year, acknowledging that most countries have already returned to life before COVID-19.

He bemoaned the damage that COVID-19 had done to the global community, saying the pandemic had shattered businesses, exacerbated political divisions, led to the spread of misinformation and plunged millions into poverty.

Political fallout

The political fallout in some countries was swift and unforgiving. Some pundits say missteps by former U.S. President Donald Trump in his administration's response to the pandemic had a role in his losing reelection bid in 2020. The United States saw the deadliest outbreak of any country in the world – where more than 1 million people died.

Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO's emergencies chief, said it was incumbent on heads of states and other leaders to negotiate a wide-ranging pandemic treaty to decide how future health threats should be faced.

Conservatives do poorly in England's local elections

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K.'s Conservative Party had a rough ending to the week as they faced heavy losses across England in local elections with the Opposition Labour Party as well as the Lib Dems (Liberal Democrats) gaining. With results of 183 of the 230 local councils in by 5.20 p.m. local time, the Tories had lost 38 councils and 781 seats (net), while Labour gained a net of 17 councils and 424 seats.

The results, which are seen as an indicator of outcomes for the 2024 general election, come after close to a year of significant trouble for and within the governing Conservative party, which saw three Prime Ministers, economic difficulties and scandals.

The Labour won back Plymouth and Stoke-on-Trent, two key councils which went to the Tories in the 2019 elections. Stoke-on-Trent is part of the 'red wall' – areas in the Midlands and northern England that have traditionally voted Labour. The party also won Medway in Kent – which had been held by the Tories since 1998. The Lib Dems claimed control of Windsor & Maidenhead, a Tory stronghold. Former U.K Prime Minister Teresa May has held the Maidenhead parliamentary seat since 1997.

New challenge: Rishi Sunak leaves the Conservative party's main office in London, after it suffered losses in the local elections. AP

The Labour said it was confident of having an 8-point lead in terms of vote shares based on results declared so far.

The Tory establishment tried to play down Friday's results. Party chairman Greg Hands said they had known it would be a "difficult night" for the party.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, had, on May 4, warned of a "hard night" ahead and said his government had worked to move away from the "box-set drama", (a likely reference to his predecessors Liz Truss and Boris Johnson) as per reports in the British press,

"The results are clear: a better Britain with Labour is possible," said Labour Party leader Keir Starmer on Twitter.

The last time local elections in England were held – under PM May's leadership in 2019 – the Tories lost more than 1,300 seats.

Another mass shooting in Serbia claims eight lives

Agence France-Presse
MLADENOVAC

The Serbian police said on Friday they arrested a man suspected of killing eight persons and injuring at least 14 others in the country's second mass shooting this week, following a manhunt through the night.

The back-to-back shootings have left Serbians horrified, spurring vows from President Aleksandar Vucic to launch a massive crackdown to remove hundreds of thousands of guns from the Balkan country.

The latest shooting erupted around midnight near Mladenovac – about 60 km south of the capital Belgrade – when a 21-year-old gunman armed with an automatic weapon opened fire from a moving vehicle. The shooting spree spread across three separate villages in the area.

The suspect was arrested at the home of a relative and was in possession of four hand grenades and a large amount of illegal weapons.

China calls Canada's summoning of envoy 'slander, defamation'

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

The diplomat has been accused of attempts to intimidate Canadian lawmaker and family

China slammed what it called "groundless slander and defamation" by Canada on Friday after Ottawa summoned Beijing's Ambassador over accusations a Chinese diplomat sought to intimidate a Canadian lawmaker and his family.

Parliamentarian Michael Chong has led an outcry in Canada following a damning report this week by the *Globe* and *Mail* newspaper that said Ottawa had turned a blind eye to interference by Beijing in Canadian affairs.

Actions in Xinjiang

The newspaper said China's intelligence agency had planned to target Mr. Chong and his relatives in Hong Kong with sanctions for voting in February 2021 for a motion condemning Beijing's conduct in the Xinjiang as genocide.

A diplomatic official at China's consulate in Toronto was reported to be involved in the intrigue, prompting Ottawa to summon China's Ambassador on Thursday and say it was "assessing different options including the expulsion of diplomats".

"China is strongly dissatisfied with Canada's groundless slander and defamation of the normal performance of duties by the Chinese embassy and consulates in Canada," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Friday.

Beijing had "lodged a strong protest" with Canada's Ambassador to China, Ms. Mao added. The Chinese embassy in Ottawa also hit out at the summoning of Ambassador Cong Peiwu.

"Driven by ideological bias, some Canadian politicians and media have been manipulating China-related issues, attacking and discrediting China," the embassy quoted Cong as having said in a meeting with a senior Canadian diplomatic official.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 19-20/2023-24/PHC/KNR, JJM-Kannur, Kasargod Dt. Kankol Alapadamba karivellur and Cheruvathur panchayaths-construction of OHSRs pumping main, transmission main, distribution net work, providing FHTCs and road restoration work. **EMD :** 500000/each, **Tender Fee :** 19518/each, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 29-05-2023, 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 04672705902.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-194-2023-24 **PH Circle, Kannur**

Sundaram-Clayton Limited

Regd office: "Chaitanya", No.12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006.
Tel : 044-2833 2115 Fax : 044 - 2833 2113 Website : www.sundaram-clayton.com Email : corpsec@sundaramclayton.com
CIN : L35999TN1962PLC004792

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
		Unaudited		Audited		Unaudited		Audited	
1	Total income	638.42	589.99	2,206.72	1,836.86	8,533.53	6,915.91	33,690.33	25,625.15
2	Net Profit / (Loss) before Tax (before Exceptional items)	150.64	124.45	235.97	177.89	464.14	404.82	1,924.47	1,196.15
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (after Exceptional items)	176.38	735.89	326.69	2,300.49	489.88	414.64	2,013.32	1,184.20
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after tax (after exceptional items)	161.36	722.24	273.11	2,276.69	324.03	308.00	1,333.17	824.49
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	161.03	720.22	276.48	2,273.57	295.52	324.68	1,399.02	824.30
6	Equity share capital (Face value of Rs.5/- each)	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	700.43	2,890.24	-	-	3,230.87	5,069.12
8	Security Premium Account	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42
9	Networth	697.28	2,893.66	697.28	2,893.66	5,898.84	7,217.69	5,898.84	7,217.69
10	Outstanding Debt (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary)	669.61	732.64	669.61	732.64	3,795.31	3,065.81	3,795.31	3,065.81
11	Outstanding redeemable Preference Shares	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary, Including exceptional item)	0.93	0.25	0.93	0.25	3.75	2.20	3.75	2.20
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Rs. 5/- each) (not annualised) (i) Basic (in Rs.) (ii) Diluted (in Rs.)	 79.75 79.75	 356.98 356.98	 134.99 134.99	 1,125.29 1,125.29	 75.90 75.90	 80.81 80.81	 321.10 321.10	 217.84 217.84
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary)	7.51	2.87	2.49	1.97	4.04	3.32	3.60	3.07
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary)	15.50	14.29	8.53	7.57	15.32	8.72	11.57	6.87
18	Current Ratio (Times)	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.98	0.89	0.93	0.89	0.93
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	10.14	5.79	10.14	5.79	3.16	3.58	3.16	3.58
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable (Times)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	0.60	0.62	0.60	0.62	0.65	0.63	0.65	0.63
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.30	0.38	0.30	0.38	0.61	0.57	0.61	0.57
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	7.18	6.74	7.30	6.74	21.64	19.89	23.71	19.89
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	3.09	2.29	3.11	2.58	9.37	9.06	9.91	9.06
25	Operating Margin (%)	12.40	14.36	12.00	13.25	16.73	13.10	12.66	11.68
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	18.68	18.78	8.27	8.39	3.50	4.31	3.69	3.26

Notes:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 & 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchanges websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.sundaram-clayton.com).
2. In standalone financial results, Exceptional item for the year ended 31.03.2022, includes
   (a) Profit of Rs.2,094.43 crores from sale of shares, representing 7.14% stake in its subsidiary, TVS Motor Company Limited
   (b) Interest income of Rs.47.92 crores arising out of investments
   (c) Covid 19 related expenses of Rs.6.32 crores and
   (d) One time cost associated with voluntary separations amounting to Rs.13.43 crores.
3. The Company has prepared these standalone and consolidated financial results in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.
4. During the quarter ended 31st March 2023, the Composite Scheme of Arrangement was sanctioned by Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench, vide its Order dated 6th March 2023, and the first part of the Composite Scheme was made effective on 14th March 2023. Pursuant to the scheme, the Company allotted 234,69,21,860 number of Cumulative Non-Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares (NCRPS) of Rs.10 each on 25th March 2023, as bonus NCRPS by capitalizing an equivalent amount Rs.2346.92 crores standing to the credit in the free reserves of the Company. The Company is awaiting approval for the listing of these bonus NCRPS. The said NCRPS has been disclosed under Current Liabilities in accordance with Ind AS.

For Sundaram-Clayton Limited
Sd/-
R.Gopalan
Chairman

Date : May 05, 2023

INBRIEF

Federal Bank Q4 net zooms 62%; eyes 20% loan growth

Federal Bank on Friday reported a 62% jump in March-quarter consolidated net profit to ₹953.91 crore, driven by profit booking on the sale of investments. Net profit for FY23 increased to ₹3,164.72 crore from the year-earlier period's ₹1,969.79 crore. Core net interest income grew 25% to ₹1,909 crore. However, it was the other income line, which reported a 58% growth to ₹734 crore for the January-March period, which helped it post the highest-ever net profit. PTI

Meesho lays off 251 staff to 'achieve profitability, cut costs'

E-commerce firm Meesho has laid off 251 employees constituting 15% of its workforce to cut costs and as part of its efforts to achieve profitability, a top company official said on Friday. Founder and CEO Vidit Aatrey informed about the decision in an e-mail to employees and announced that all the affected employees would get one month extra severance pay beyond the notice period as well as ESOPs irrespective of the period they had been with the company. PTI

'Realty sentiment index dips marginally in Jan.-March'

The sentiment index for the real estate sector dropped marginally in the January-March period but remained positive, according to a report by Knight Frank India and NAREDCO. The current sentiment score has seen a marginal dip from 59 in December 2022 quarter to 57 in Q1 2023. This is mainly on account of stakeholder perception of the global recessionary environment and the risk of a future global downturn still exists, it said. PTI

Jan.-March gold demand falls 17% on high prices: WGC

India's gold demand value during the quarter was 9% lower YoY; WGC official says record-high price of gold could have convinced buyers to defer their purchases anticipating a price correction

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

With high prices the demand for gold in India for Q1 2023 (January to March) shrank by 17% to 112.5 tonnes as compared with overall demand of 135.5 tonnes in the year-earlier period, the World Gold Council (WGC) said.

India's gold demand value during the quarter was ₹56,220 crore, down 9% from ₹61,540 crore in the year-earlier period.

Total jewellery demand in India for Q1 2023, as per WGC, declined by 17% to 78 tonnes from 94.2 tonnes a year earlier. Total investment demand for the quarter at 34.4 tonnes decreased by 17% year-over-year (YoY).

Dip in demand

Gold demand in January-March quarter dipped due to high prices and fewer festive days to spur retail consumption

- Record-high prices could have led households to postpone purchases expecting a price correction
- The retail price of gold per 10 grams (including taxes) on Thursday was at a lifetime high of ₹64,500
- Both jewellery and investment demand in India dropped 17% YoY during the quarter

"Record high and volatile gold prices impacted sentiment and gold jewellery demand dropped," said Somasundaram P.R., Regional CEO, India, World Gold Council. On Thursday, the retail price of gold per 10 grams including taxes was ₹64,500, which was a lifetime high, he added.

"Sharp rise in gold prices combined with fewer auspicious days to trigger consumption, has led to many households deferring buying perhaps in anticipation of a price correction," he observed.

India said to mull foreign investment in nuclear power

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India is considering overturning a ban on foreign investment in its nuclear power industry and allowing greater participation by domestic private firms, two government sources told Reuters, as part of a push for cleaner energy.

The measures have been recommended by a government panel, set up by think-tank NITI Aayog.

The aim is to reduce carbon emissions, and nuclear is in focus because it can supply energy 24/7, unlike solar energy, said the officials, who declined to be named as they were not authorised to talk to the media. India's current nuclear power capacity is 6,780 MW.

Piramal Enterprises' Shriram stake leads to Q4 loss of ₹196 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Piramal Enterprises Ltd. reported a fourth-quarter net loss of ₹196 crore led by a mark-to-market loss of ₹375 crore on its investments in the Shriram Group, the company said.

Piramal had reported a net profit of ₹151 crore in the year-earlier period.

The Board has recommended a dividend of ₹31 per share and the total dividend payout would be ₹740 crore. The company had a consolidated net worth of ₹31,059 crore for FY23 with a capital adequacy ratio of 31% on its consolidated balance sheet. Cash and liquid investments of ₹7,430 crore accounted for 9% of the company's total assets.

Gross NPA ratio was 3.8% in Q4 FY23 and total provisions as a percentage of total AUM now stands at 6.2% in Q4FY23.

"We are pleased with our resilient performance amid macroeconomic and geopolitical headwinds," said Ajay Piramal, Chairman, Piramal Enterprises.

U.S. job growth stays strong; unemployment rate fell to 3.4% last month

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. employers boosted hiring in April while raising wages for workers, pointing to sustained labour market strength that could see the Federal Reserve keeping interest rates higher for some time.

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,53,000 jobs last month, the Labor Department's closely watched employment report showed on Friday. Data for March was revised to show 1,65,000 jobs added, instead of 2,36,000 as previously reported. The unemployment rate fell to 3.4% from 3.5% in March.

Wage inflation quickens

Average hourly earnings gained 0.5% after advancing 0.3% in March. Wages increased 4.4% on a year-on-year basis in April.

Measures such as the Employment Cost Index and the Atlanta Fed's wage tracker also show momentum. Wage growth remains too strong to be consistent with the Federal Reserve's 2% inflation target.

The Fed raised its benchmark overnight rate by another 25 basis points to the 5.00%-5.25% range on Wednesday, and signalled it may pause the U.S. central bank's fastest policy tightening campaign since the 1980s, though it kept a hawkish bias. The Fed has raised the policy rate by 500 basis points since March 2022.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,054	-1.13
Gold	62,040	0.03
Brent oil	74.99	3.16

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1920.30	9.05
Adani Ports	683.90	4.15
Apollo Hosp	4602.50	49.30
Asian Paints	3012.95	30.10
Axis Bank	865.30	-0.65
Bajaj Auto	4463.10	5.40
Bajaj Finserv	1359.25	-15.20
Bajaj Finance	6389.85	-0.40
Bharti Airtel	787.30	-1.80
BPCL	365.45	-2.90
Britannia Ind	4626.00	38.95
Cipla	924.80	-8.70
Coal India	237.40	-0.05
Divis Lab	3290.80	8.25
Dr Reddys Lab	4942.50	-25.50
Eicher Motors	3355.10	15.80
Grasim Ind	1752.50	-7.35
HCL Tech	1055.55	-11.25
HDFC	2702.30	-159.75
HDFC Bank	1625.65	-102.15
HDFC Life	539.70	-6.80
Hero MotoCorp	2547.25	32.75
Hindalco	434.25	-11.25
Hind Unilever	2500.75	-6.00
ICICI Bank	926.95	5.25
IndusInd Bank	1073.30	-61.30
Infosys	1259.10	-14.45
ITC	428.75	4.15
JSW Steel	733.35	-5.35
Kotak Bank	1928.70	-18.90
L&T	2377.50	20.60
M&M	1211.20	-20.50
Maruti Suzuki	8948.65	148.05
NestleIndia	22019.85	326.10
NTPC	174.25	-2.10
ONGC	160.30	-0.70
PowerGrid Corp	241.05	2.20
Reliance Ind	2441.75	-6.25
SBI Life	1173.70	6.25
State Bank	576.50	-3.50
Sun Pharma	970.45	-3.55
TataConsumerProduct	776.25	0.75
Tata Motors	477.10	-3.70
Tata Steel	108.65	-2.40
TCS	3230.70	10.00
Tech Mahindra	1036.40	-9.05
Titan	2732.90	62.50
UltraTech Cement	7628.80	126.55
UPL	714.85	-16.65
Wipro	379.40	-4.30

Britannia Q4 net rises 47.5%

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Britannia Industries Ltd. on Friday reported a 47.53% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹557.60 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2023.

U.S.FDA issues observation for Dr. Reddy's Bollaram unit

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has been issued a Form 483 with one observation by the United States Food and Drug Administration following an inspection of the company's active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturing facility in Bollaram, Hyderabad.

It was a routine GMP inspection of the facility conducted from May 1-5.

"We have been issued a Form 483 with one observation, which we will address within the stipulated timeline," Dr. Reddy's said in an intimation to the stock exchange on Friday.

Sundaram-Clayton Q4 net profit rises 5%

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Revenue from operations rose 23% to ₹8,460 cr. while cost of materials soared to ₹5,175 cr.

Sundaram-Clayton Ltd.'s consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March rose 5% from the year-earlier period to ₹324 crore.

Revenue from operations increased 23% Y-o-Y to ₹8,460 crore while cost of materials soared to ₹5,175 crore from ₹4,435 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing.

The result included a loss of ₹4 crore being share of associates and an exceptional gain of ₹26 crore comprising interest income and one-time cost associated with voluntary separations.

On a standalone basis, the company posted a profit of ₹161 in Q4 FY23 crore against ₹722 crore in Q4 FY22. The results for Q4 FY22 included one-time exceptional gain of ₹611 crore – being profit from sale of shares of ₹599 crore representing its stake in TVS Motor, interest income of ₹17.38 crore from investments and voluntary separation cost of ₹5.59 crore.

During Q4, the firm subscribed to the entire equity of its wholly owned German subsidiary. It also acquired 30.86 lakh equity shares in its subsidiary TVS Credit Services Ltd.

Rane Madras posts Q4 loss of ₹196 cr. on impairment

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Rane Madras Ltd. (RML) has posted a standalone net loss of ₹196 crore for the quarter ended March from the year-earlier period on account of impairment of ₹223 crore.

The company had reported a profit of ₹17 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue from operations rose 24% to ₹561 crore while cost of materials consumed surged by 20% to ₹348 crore.

"The growth momentum across vehicle segments in India continues to remain strong," said L. Ganesh, Group Chairman.

Accenture appoints Ajay Vij as India MD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ajay Vij

Accenture on Friday said it appointed Ajay Vij as Country Managing Director, a newly-created role, and Sandeep Dutta as the lead of its India Market Unit.

As country managing director, Mr. Vij would expand his current responsibilities as the Corporate Services & Sustainability lead for India to provide overall leadership and drive coordinated decision-making for key company priorities, Accenture said in a statement.

Mr. Dutta, who was India Sales Lead, would now serve as the company's India business lead responsible for driving business and operations in the domestic market, focusing on growth, market differentiation, and clients. He would also be responsible for working with local business communities and representing Accenture with local industry and trade bodies, the company said.

Rekha M. Menon, Senior Managing Director and Chairperson for Accenture in India, would retire as of June 30.

SEBI said to direct brokers to limit use of financial influencers

Reuters
MUMBAI

A surge in retail equity investors during COVID-19 led to a proliferation of influencer comments

India's market regulator will direct brokers and mutual funds to limit the use of financial influencers in advertising and marketing campaigns, according to two people with direct knowledge of the matter.

A surge in retail investors in equity markets during the pandemic led to a proliferation of influencers pushing financial advice on social media platforms.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) fears they could mislead investors, according to the people who spoke on condition of anonymity about a decision that has not been reported previously. SEBI did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

SEBI will define what kind of advice is seen as misleading after issuing a consultation paper and seeking industry comments before finalising regulations, the person added, with rule violations attracting fines and directions including a ban from capital markets. Curbing such spread of financial advice has been a challenge across global markets.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742223 FAX: (0291) 2746539

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Short Term E-Procurement Tender is invited for supply of 5-30 Amp. Single phase Static Energy Meters with Meter Box having DLMS Protocol with additional LPRF port Under **TN-1892 (UBN JVV2324GLOB00131)**. Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders areavailable on our website at www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl and also at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in

Raj.Samwad/C/23/1891 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742223 FAX: (0291) 2746539

E-PROCUREMENTTENDER NOTICE

Rate Contract for repair of damaged/failed 33/11 KV, 3.15 MVA, 5.0 MVA and 8.0 MVA Power Transformer Under **TN-1877 (UBN JVV2324GLRC00104)**.
Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Bid Security, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders areavailable on our website at www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl and also at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in

Raj.Samwad/C/23/1803 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR CUM CHIEF ENGINEER
EASTERN RAJASTHAN CANAL PROJECT CORPORATION LIMITED, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

No. 2250 Date: 03.05.2023

Corrigendum no 3
NIT no - 01/2023-24

With reference to the Bid invited for the works "Leasing of Land at Mahi Dam for Development and Operation of Mahi Tourism Project in District Banswara (50 years Lease Period) Rs 405 Lakh, "Leasing of Land at Bisalpur Dam for Development and Operation of Bisalpur Tourism Project in District Tonk (50 years Lease Period)" Rs 1315 Lakh Vide office letter no 1992 dated 10.04.2023 of this office, has been extended due to indispensable reason up to 11.05.2023 at 03:00 PM and technical bid will be open on dated 12.05.2023 at 11:30 AM. These changes/ amendments may be seen on procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state.
NIB no: ERP2324A0001
UBN no: 1. ERP2324WSOB00001
2. ERP2324WLOB00002
Raj.Samwad/C/23/1864 MD cum Chief Engineer

CSIR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
HYDERABAD - 500007.

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW / NOTIFICATION NO. 07/2023

CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad is conducting Walk-in-Interviews on 15 th, 16 th & 18 th May, 2023 for the positions of Project Staff having qualifications of MSc (Chemistry / Organic Chemistry / Microbiology) / M.Pharmacy / Diploma in Engineering & Technology / Graduate Degree in Science etc..

For full details visit our website **www.iictindia.org**

Sd/-
Controller of Administration

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत अलवर
सा.नि.वि. परिसर, अशोका टाकीज के पास, कचहरी रोड, अलवर
फोन :-0144-2737038, E-mail : sealw.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांकः 272 दिनांक : 04/05/2023

Short Term NIT No. 39/2022-23

Bids for construction of Road Works in 4 Package and Consultation Work for GSD/DPR for 2 Works are ihvited from interested bidder from 29-03-2023 11:00 Am upto 08-05-2023 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** of the state and **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is 1187.27/- Lacs.
UBN No:
1- PWD2223WSOB20091 2- PWD2223WSOB20094
3- PWD2223WSOB20098 4- PWD2223WSOB20101
5- PWD2223WSOB20104 6- PWD2223WLOB20393
DIPR/C/6550/2023 **Superintending Engineer PWD Circle Alwar**

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED(TW WING)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742336 FAX: (0291) 2745259

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Short term Techno-commercial and Price e-Bids are invited for **detailed hereunder:**

Tender No.	Name of Work	UBN No.
TNTW-663	"Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of material for 6.00km O/H 33 KV line, 01 Nos. of 33/11 KV, 3.15 MVA S/S at IGNP PS-6, 51.38km 11 KV line, 47 Nos. 11/0.4KV S/S GNP deposit work under AEN(O&M) Bajju in Bikaner District Circle on turnkey basis."	JVV2324 WSOB00119

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening etc are available on our website at www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl and also at www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in The bidders, in their own interest are requested to read very carefully the tender documents before submitting the bid only through on line on website www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
NOTE:
Interested bidders please note that in future any other notices /information regarding amendment /corrigendum/addendum/dates extension of bid submission etc for above tender will only be available on website www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, sppp.rajasthan.gov.in energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl

Raj.Samwad/C/23/1800 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)
बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि. वि. वृत अजमेर
क्रमांकः 289 दिनांकः 27.04.2023
द्वितीय संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या 17/2022-23
(DIPR/C/2023/5259) दिनांक 07.04.2023
NIB NO:- PWD2223A5047

इस कार्यालय के पत्र क्रमांक 5038 दिनांक 29.03.2023 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 17 वर्ष 2022-23 (सड़क के निर्माण कार्यों बाबत्) में निम्नलिखित रूप से संशोधन किया जाता है। निविदा की शेष वर्णित शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

विवरण	:	प्रथम संशोधन अनुसार निविदा विक्रय तिथि एवं प्राप्ति तिथि	द्वितीय संशोधित दिनांक
निविदा आवेदन/ डाउनलोड करने की तारीख	:	04 अप्रैल, 2023 से 01 मई, 2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक	04 अप्रैल, 2023 से 08 मई, 2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा जमा कराने की तारीख	:	04 अप्रैल, 2023 से 01 मई, 2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक	04 अप्रैल, 2023 से 08 मई, 2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तिथि	:	03 मई, 2023 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।	10 मई, 2023 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

UBN No.: 1. PWD2223WSOB20466, 2. PWD2223WSOB20467, 3. PWD2223WSOB20468, 4. PWD2223WSOB20469, 5. PWD2223WSOB20470, 6. PWD2223WSOB20471, 7. PWD2223WSOB20472

ई-साईन
(अशोक कुमार तँवर)
अधीक्षण अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. वृत अजमेर
seajmer01@gmail.com
फोन नं.: 0145-2947896
डीआईपीआर/सी/6470/2023

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग भरतपुर
क्रमांकः अमुअ/भरत/त.स./2023-24/डी-140 दिनांकः 28.04.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 06/
(पीएमजीएसवाई-III) (Batch-II)/2022-23

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमन्त्री ग्राम सड़क योजना (पीएमजीएसवाई-III) (Batch-II) के अन्तर्गत सड़क चौड़ाईकरण एवं सुदृढीकरण हेतु मय पाँच साल की मरम्मत के लिए प्रतिशत दर के अनुसार कुल 01 पैकेज अनुमानित लागत राशि रु. 796.05 लाख के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से अल्पकालीन ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाईट www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.raj.nic.in व www.pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजीटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट www.pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक हैं।

NIB No. PWD2324A0305
UBN No.: PWD2324WLOB01235
DIPR/C/6446/2023 **अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सानिवि संभाग, भरतपुर**

'SIMPLY SUPERB'

Suryakumar dissects cricket pitch like mathematician: Sreesanth

Hailing Suryakumar Yadav's performance, former India cricketer S. Sreesanth termed "SKY" a mathematician for his ability to find gaps. Sreesanth said, "The way he carries himself is simply superb. He dissects the field like a mathematician uses a compass and a protractor on the paper. He makes those calculations brilliantly."

CONSISTENCY THE KEY

Shastri backs Gujarat Titans to lift the IPL trophy this year

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri said: "Looking at the current form and team standings, I believe that Gujarat Titans (led by Hardik Pandya) will win the trophy. There is consistency and flexibility in this team and there are seven-eight players who are performing consistently. The players in the side complement each other well."

OUT OF ACTION

Injured Rahul ruled out of IPL-16 and WTC final

K.L. Rahul was on Friday ruled out of IPL-16 and the WTC final against Australia at The Oval, London, from June 7. He will undergo a thigh surgery on the advice of his medical team. Karun Nair has been named as Rahul's replacement in the Lucknow Super Giants squad. Karun will join Super Giants for ₹50 lakh.

THUMPING WIN

Babar leads from the front as Pakistan hammers New Zealand

Skipper Babar Azam scored a century to help Pakistan defeat New Zealand by 102 runs in the fourth ODI in Karachi on Friday.
The scores: Pakistan 334/6 in 50 overs (Babar 107, Salman 58, Masood 44, Henry 3/65) bt New Zealand 232 in 43.4 overs (Latham 60, Chapman 46, Mir 4/43, Wasim 3/40). Pakistan leads series 4-0.

Titans brook no resistance from Royals, consolidate their position at the top

After the Afghan spin pair of Rashid and Noor bundles out the Rajasthan side for 118, Saha, Gill and Hardik power the Gujarat team home

Tormentor and turning point: Rashid had Samson's men in a tangle and the run out of the in-form Jaiswal made it worse for the host. PTI

IPL-16

P.K. Ajith Kumar
JAIPUR

Gujarat Titans had its revenge on Friday. And it came fast.

Hardik Pandya's men outplayed Rajasthan Royals in their reverse IPL fixture at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, avenging the three-wicket loss at Ahmedabad. The win consolidated their position at the top.

After bowling out the host for 118, with the Afghan spin duo of Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad claiming five wickets between them, Titans romped home with nine wickets and 6.1 overs to spare. On a wicket that certainly looked better than what the Royals total suggested, the chase was a walk in the park for Titans.

Openers Shubman Gill (36, 35b, 6x4), playing as the Impact Player, and Wriddhiman Saha (41 not out, 34b, 5x4) put on 71. After Gill got stumped off Yuzvendra Chahal, skipper Hardik Pandya (39 not out, 15b, 3x4, 3x6) walked in. He was a man in a hurry as he smashed Adam Zampa for 24 in an over.

In the Royals innings, only one batter reached 30. Sanju Samson was looking good, and his dismissal was a big setback, but that of his second-wicket partner was bigger. For, Yashasvi Jaiswal is in the form of his life and was shaping up well again when he was run out in a mix-up with his captain.

Before the slow men took over, Hardik had provided the breakthrough; the out-of-form Jos Buttler slashed him and was caught at third man by Mohit Sharma.

In the next over, Jaiswal indicated that he would be continuing from his 62-ball 124 against Mumbai Indians as he sent Mohammed Shami over deep fine-leg for a massive six and then hit him for a four through mid-wicket.

A superb diving stop at backward point by Abhinav Manohar and a throw by Mohit saw Jaiswal fall short at the non-striker's end after being sent back by his skipper. Samson's leading edge off Josh Little ended in Hardik's hands at cover.

The promotion of R. Ashwin did not quite work, as his off-stump was knocked back by Rashid, who went on to finish with three for 14.

Trent Boult was the second-highest scorer with 15. That summed up Royals' tragic tale.

Next assignment

GT: May 7 vs. **LSG**
Ahmedabad, 3.30 p.m.

RR: May 7 vs. **SRH**
Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal run out 14 *(11b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Jos Buttler c Mohit b Hardik 8 *(6b, 2x4)*, Sanju Samson c Hardik b Little 30 *(20b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal b Noor 12 *(12b, 1x4)*, R. Ashwin b Rashid 2 *(6b)*, Riyan Parag **(Impact Player in place of Jaiswal)** lbw b Rashid 4 *(6b)*, Shimron Hetmyer lbw b Rashid 7 *(13b)*, Dhruv Jurel lbw b Noor 9 *(8b, 1x4)*, Trent Boult b Shami 15 *(11b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Adam Zampa run out 7 *(9b)*, Sandeep Sharma (not out) 2 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-7): 8; Total (in 17.5 overs): 118.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-11 (Buttler, 1.4 overs), 2-47 (Jaiswal, 5.1), 3-60 (Samson, 6.5), 4-63 (Ashwin, 7.6), 5-69 (Parag, 9.2), 6-77 (Padikkal, 11.3), 7-87 (Jurel, 13.1), 8-96 (Hetmyer, 14.1), 9-112 (Boult, 16.3).

TITANS BOWLING
Shami 4-0-27-1, Hardik 2-0-22-1, Rashid 4-0-14-3, Little 4-0-24-1, Noor 3-0-25-2, Mohit 0.5-0-5-0.

GUJARAT TITANS
Wriddhiman Saha (not out) 41 *(34b, 5x4)*, Shubman Gill **(Impact Player in place of Mohit)** st. Samson b Chahal 36 *(35b, 6x4)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 39 *(15b, 3x4, 3x6)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-1): 3; Total (for one wkt. in 13.5 overs): 119.

FALL OF WICKET
1-71 (Gill, 9.4).

ROYALS BOWLING
Boult 3-0-28-0, Sandeep 3-0-19-0, Zampa 3-0-40-0, Chahal 3.5-0-22-1, Ashwin 1-0-8-0.

Toss: Royals.
PoM: Rashid.
Titans won by nine wickets with 6.1 overs to spare.

Points Table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	10	7	3	0	14	0.752
Lucknow Super Giants	10	5	4	1	11	0.639
Chennai Super Kings	10	5	4	1	11	0.329
Rajasthan Royals	10	5	5	0	10	0.448
Royal Challengers	9	5	4	0	10	-0.030
Mumbai Indians	9	5	4	0	10	-0.373
Punjab Kings	10	5	5	0	10	-0.472
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	6	0	8	-0.103
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	3	6	0	6	-0.540
Delhi Capitals	9	3	6	0	6	-0.768

After the RR-GT match on May 5

Neeraj spears gold with world-leading effort of 88.67m

Up, up, and away! Neeraj's first throw was good enough to give the Olympic champion the title. TWITTER/DIAMOND_LEAGUE

DIAMOND LEAGUE

Sports Bureau

Once again, his first throw turned out to be his best.

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra defeated Grenada's World champion Anderson Peters to win the Diamond League season-opener in Doha with an impressive World-leading 88.67m on Friday.

Peters had won the gold in Doha last year with a personal-best 93.07m but he has had a string of mediocre throws this season and Neeraj began as the favourite.

The Indian, the Diamond League Trophy winner last year, took the honours with his season-opening throw of 88.67 and then followed it up with two 86-plus efforts (86.04 and 86.52) with his second and last efforts.

Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch was second with 88.63 while Peters was third with 85.88.

Eldhose flops

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Games triple jump champion Eldhose Paul had a disappointing Diamond League debut, finishing 10th with a wind-assisted 15.84m.

Eldhose, who has a season-best of 16.61m, which came Indian Jumps Open in Ballari in March, and a personal best of 16.99m, was probably nervous with some of the world's best around him. His opening attempt was his day's best and his next two read 13.65 and 14.70, with all his jumps coming under a +2.2 wind.

Portugal's Pedro Pichardo, the Olympic and World champion, won gold with 17.91m while Burkina Faso's Hugues Fabrice Zango, the World leader this season, took silver with 17.81.

MI bowling will be tested by a strong CSK batting

Lalith Kalidas
CHENNAI

No team has upstaged the Chennai Super Kings at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on more occasions than Mumbai Indians.

With five wins on the trot since 2012, Rohit Sharma's men will prowl Chepauk on Saturday with form and history in their favour. However, the jubilation of two consecutive 200-plus run chases could be short-lived as MI has its weakest bowling line-up in years against a strong batting side led by M.S. Dhoni.

Barring leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, who has resurrected himself with 15 scalps at an economy of 7.28, Mumbai's shapeless attack has leaked 10.27 runs per over for 36 wickets. Smiles can turn wry for MI against a firing CSK batting order – the quickest-striking team this season (9.58 runs per over) – which hopes to get faster on fresher pitches at the venue.

Rock solid: MI's jubilation of two consecutive 200-plus run chases could be short-lived as it takes on Dhoni's men. M. VEDHAN

While Rohit's batting remains a concern, Mumbai has hounded opponents with its collective middle-order firepower – Tilak Varma to Tim David – boasting a 150-plus strike rate.

Meanwhile, Dhoni's ploy to defend a 200-run total with spin went awry last Sunday when Punjab Kings pummelled his shaky pace unit to snatch a last-ball win. With the playoffs race hotting up and rain in Lucknow denying full points, CSK may roll out a slow surface on a predicted muggy afternoon to stomp Mumbai for the second time this edition.

Royal Challengers batters vs. Capitals bowlers could decide the outcome of the contest

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals, having spent the larger part of IPL-16 in the cellar, will be desperate to climb the ladder while Royal Challengers Bangalore will be keen to break into the top four.

The two teams will continue their pursuit at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground on Saturday following an identical sequence of three victories in the last four matches.

Royal Challengers had defeated Capitals by 23 runs last month. Much like Mumbai Indians, Faf du Plessis' men rely heavily on their frontline batters. In contrast, Capitals expect the bowlers to deliver as the batters have not made it big.

All three Delhi's victories were a result of fine bowling.

How the Royal Challengers batters deal with the Capitals bowlers could well decide the outcome of the contest.

Also, David Warner's side will look to strike form against the Bengaluru team's struggling bowlers.

PowerPlay woes

For Royal Challengers, du Plessis, Virat Kohli and Glenn Maxwell have done the bulk of the scoring. Capitals' woes in the PowerPlay continued after they were reduced to 23 for five in five overs in the previous game against table-topper Gujarat Titans.

This should offer hope to the Royal Challengers bowlers, but how they execute the plans remains to be seen.

Though the visitors hold the edge, the hosts will look to spring a surprise.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Chennai Super Kings vs. Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals vs. Royal Challengers
Chennai, 3.30 p.m.	**Delhi,** 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 35	Played: 29
CSK 15 | MI 20	DC 10 | RCB 18 | NR 1
PREVIOUS MEETING	PREVIOUS MEETING
CSK won by seven wickets, 2023	RCB won by 23 runs, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Eyeing more scalps: Though Axar has an economy rate of 6.93, he has taken only seven wickets in eight innings. R.V. MOORTHY

INBRIEF

Recovering Nadal pulls out of the Rome Masters

Rafael Nadal on Friday withdrew from the Rome Masters tournament as he continues his recovery from injury, casting serious doubts over his fitness for the French Open. The 22-time Grand Slam winner has not played since suffering a hip injury at the Australian Open in January. The French Open, which the 36-year-old has won on 14 occasions, gets underway in Paris in three weeks' time.

Bopanna-Ebden to meet Khachanov-Rublev in final

Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden made the doubles final of the €8,796,536 Madrid ATP tournament with a 5-7, 7-6(3), [10-4] win over Santiago Gonzalez and Edouard Roger-Vasselin.

Important results: €8,796,536 ATP, Madrid: Semifinals: Rohan Bopanna & Matthew Ebden (Aus) bt Santiago Gonzalez (Mex) & Edouard Roger-Vasselin (Fra) 5-7, 7-6(3), [10-4].
$80,000 Challenger, Gwangju, Korea: Semifinals: Andrew Harris & John-Patrick Smith (Aus) bt Arjun Kadhe & Nam Ji Sung (Kor) 6-4, 6-7(5), [10-7]; Evan King & Reese Stalder (USA) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-4, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF men, Antalya: Quarterfinals: Jeremy Jahn & Maik Steiner (Ger) bt Rishab Agarwal & Florian Broska (Ger) 6-1, 6-4.
$40,000 ITF women, Tbilisi, Georgia: Semifinals: Stacey Fung (Can) bt Ankita Raina 6-2, 6-2; **Quarterfinals:** Ankita Raina bt Ekaterine Gorgodze (Geo) 7-6(5), 6-3; Stacey Fung bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-0, 6-4.
Doubles: Final: Ekaterine Gorgodze (Geo) & Ankita Raina bt Anastasia Zakharova & Anastasia Zolotareva 4-6, 6-2, [10-6].

AIFF invites bids for new clubs to join I-League

The AIFF, on Friday, invited bids for new clubs to join I-League from the 2023-24 season. Under the Vision 2047 document, the federation plans to increase the number of I-League teams in a triple-tier system in order to give opportunities to aspiring clubs and/or investors from various socio-economic backgrounds. New Delhi, Bengaluru, Pune, Gurugram, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, and Noida have been identified as Tier 1 cities. Tier 2 cities identified for the bids are Ranchi, Itanagar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Phagwara, Coimbatore, Manjeri, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhopal, and Shillong.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 a.m.
AFC Champions League: (final), Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday).
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 10 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m. & 10 p.m.
ATP: Madrid Open, Sony LIV, 10 p.m. onwards.
Formula One: Miami GP (Qualifying), F1 TV & F1 TV Pro App, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday).

Napoli's 33-year wait for the Serie A title comes to an end

Luciano Spalletti's side has secured its third *Scudetto* with a record-equalling five games to play; Brighton dents Manchester United's Champion League hopes with a last-gasp win

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
UDINE

Napoli finally ended its long wait to win Italy's Serie A on Thursday after a 1-1 draw at Udinese secured its third *Scudetto* with a record-equalling five games to play.

Thousands of fans in Udine, at the Stadio Maradona in Naples and all around southern Italy's biggest city exploded with joy at the final whistle as 33 years of waiting came to an end.

Supporters streamed onto the pitch at the Dacia Arena to celebrate after a season dominated by Luciano Spalletti's side.

Victor Osimhen scored the decisive goal as Napoli's current stars came back from trailing to Sandi Lovric's opener at half-time and emulated the teams led by Diego Maradona which won the league in 1987 and 1990.

Clincher: Osimhen fires in Napoli's equaliser against Udinese that helped the club seal the Serie A honours. REUTERS

Emotional welcome

Spalletti and his team is set to receive an emotional welcome when they return to Naples, where the partying is set to continue to until at least its next home fixture against Fiorentina on Sunday evening.

"They (the fans) have seen great coaches and great players, they're supporters who watched Maradona play, and probably some kind of protection from him has led to this result," said Spalletti.

It was appropriate that Osimhen was the man to take Napoli over the line as the Nigeria striker has had the best season of his career and been key to Napoli's historic charge to glory.

Osimhen's title-deciding strike was his 22nd goal in 28 league appearances and rightly caused bedlam among the massed ranks of away fans who took over the Dacia Arena in Udine.

Napoli's 16-point lead over second-placed Lazio leaves it with a month-long parade between now and the end of the season which will allow its long-suffering supporters to fully unload more than a generation of frustration.

Sweet revenge

Meanwhile in the Premier League, Brighton gained sweet revenge on Thursday for its defeat by Manchester United in the FA Cup semifinals, with Alexis Mac Allister converting a 99th-minute penalty to dent the visitors' Champions League hopes.

United remained in the fourth and final Champions League qualification spot in the league, four points ahead of fifth-placed Liverpool with a game in hand, while Brighton moved up to sixth.

The results:
Serie A: Empoli 3 (Lucumi 1-og, Akpa Akpro 45, Cambiaghi 68) bt Bologna 1 (Orsolini 88-pen); Udinese 1 (Lovric 13) drew with Napoli 1 (Osimhen 52).
LaLiga: Girona 2 (Bernardo 45+2, Castellanos 84) bt Real Mallorca 1 (Muriqi 80-pen); Sevilla 3 (Gil 22, Ocampos 69-pen, Gueye 88) bt Espanyol 2 (Rekik 29-og, Puado 43); Rayo Vallecano 2 (De Tomas 48, Camello 80) bt Real Valladolid 1 (Leon 84); Athletic Bilbao 0 lost to Real Betis 1 (Willian Jose 6).
Premier League: Brighton 1 (Mac Allister 90+9-pen) bt Manchester United 0.

Wrestlers' protest: committees formed to discuss way forward

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

A day after the Supreme Court closed their case against the Delhi Police, the protesting wrestlers seemed to have come to terms with the initial setback and decided to move ahead in a more organised way.

"We have formed two committees to discuss the way forward. The first comprises 31 people from all organisations who are supporting us, including the khap panchayats, farmer organisations, labour groups and student and women groups. The other one of nine members will decide on wrestling matters but none of the wrestlers sitting here are part of either. We will disclose more details on Saturday," said Bajrang Punia.

Reiterating that the protest was for justice and not about any caste or political party, Bajrang said even the BJP members were welcome. He added that the recording of statements of complainants by the police had been completed and would next be recorded in front of a magistrate.

The protest is likely to intensify on Sunday with several khaps announcing they would gather at Jantar Mantar and hold a panchayat.

"They did a panchayat on Thursday too. Whatever they decide will be acceptable to us. If the society and the country ask us to vacate, we will leave."

Asmi pulls off a win, but India loses

BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

Sports Bureau

Asmi Adkar won the second singles in a dramatic fashion, saving a bunch of match points, against Aishi Das 1-6, 7-6(10), [11-9], but India was beaten 2-1 by New Zealand in the play-off match for the 9th-12th spots in the Asia-Oceania Junior Billie Jean King Cup under-16 girls tennis tournament in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Friday.

India will play Indonesia for the 11th spot on Saturday.

With only the top three teams qualifying for the World Group competition, Australia and Korea will fight for the third spot.

The results: Play-off (9-12 place): New Zealand bt India 2-1 (Lucia Gale bt Sejal Bhutada 6-2, 6-1; Aishi Das lost to Asmi Adkar 6-1, 6-7(10), [9-11]; Aishi & Lucia bt Asmi & Aakruti Sonkusare 6-4, 6-4).

Indian archers claim 14 medals

Sports Bureau

Indian archers bagged 14 medals – seven gold, five silver and two bronze – to top the medals tally in a depleted field at the Asia Cup world ranking tournament, Stage-2 in Tashkent on Friday.

The results:
Recurve: Gold medal matches: Individual: Men: Mrinal Chauhan lost to Wang Baobin (Chn) 2-6 (29-30, 29-29, 27-28, 26-26); **Women:** Sangeeta lost to Wu Jiaxin (Chn) 3-7 (27-26, 27-27, 26-27, 24-27, 26-30).
Team: Men: India (Mrinal, Tushar Sheleke, Jayanta Talukdar) bt China 5-1 (57-54, 54-54, 54-51); **Women:** India (Sangeeta, Madhu Vedwan, Tanisha Verma) lost to China 0-6 (52-56, 47-52, 51-52); **Mixed:** India (Sangeeta, Mrinal) bt China 5-4 (36-37, 39-39, 37-36, 37-37, S.O. 20-18).

Compound: Gold medal matches: Men: Individual: Abhishek Verma bt Amit 143-143 (S.O. 10-9); **Women:** Raginee Markoo bt Pragati 144-144 (10*-10).

Team: Men: India (Amit, Kushal Dalal, Abhishek) bt Hong Kong 233-226; **Women:** India (Parneet Kaur, Raginee, Pragati) bt Kazakhstan 232-223.

Mixed: India (Parneet, Abhishek) bt Kazakhstan 157-145.

Bronze medal matches: Individual: Men: Kushal Dalal bt Sergey Khristich (Kaz) 142-141; **Women:** Parneet Kaur bt Adel Zhexenbinova (Kaz) 143-141.

Mirabai Chanu finishes sixth in Asian weightlifting championships

Sports Bureau

World and Olympic silver medalist lifter Mirabai Chanu took the sixth place in women's 49kg with a total of 194kg despite a "hip joint issue" at the Asian weightlifting championships in Jinju, South Korea, on Friday.

Mirabai, who went through rehab after her Worlds silver medal-winning performance of 200kg, including 87kg in snatch and 113kg in clean and jerk, in Bogota in December last (and placed second in the current Olympics qualification rankings for Paris 2024), equalled the same aggregate at the selection trials in Patiala on March 31.

Only two good lifts

Troubled by back, shoulder and wrist issues in the past, the 28-year-old, who has been eyeing to touch 90kg in snatch since achieving her best of 88kg in February 2020 at the National championships in Kolkata, recorded 85kg in her first attempt but could not lift 88kg in her next two.

She did 109kg in her opening clean and jerk effort before skipping the rest. "Mira's hip joint had some uneasiness. So, she did not exert pressure. Our primary aim was to participate (in the Olympic qualifying event) here," said chief coach Vijay Sharma.

Mirabai, a former World champion, had secured a bronze medal, her best finish in the Asian championships, with a personal best of 205kg and the clean and jerk world record of 119kg when she competed in the continental meet in Tashkent in 2021.

Three-time World champion Chinese Jiang Huihua (94kg, 113kg, 207kg), her compatriot and Olympic champion Hou Zhiui (93kg, 111kg, 204kg) and 2021 World champion Thai Surodchana Khambao (90kg, 110kg, 200kg) claimed the top three spots in Jinju.

Thailand's Thanyathon Sukcharoen, a two-time World champion in 45kg, also totaled 200kg.

Japan's Rira Suzuki, who tied with Mirabai on 194kg while competing in Group-B, claimed the fifth position.

Hussamuddin, Naveen storm into the last 16

Hussamuddin, left, and Naveen. FILE PHOTOS

BOXING WORLDS

Sports Bureau

Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) and Naveen Kumar (92kg) gave dominating performances to cruise into the pre-quarterfinals of the World boxing championships in Tashkent on Friday.

Hussamuddin beat China's Ping Lyu 5-0, while Naveen outsmarted Korean Jaemin Jeong with an identical margin.

Hussamuddin landed some clean left punches and employed his defensive techniques well to take the first round.

Even as the Chinese stepped up aggression, Hussamuddin handled him clinically to win the final round and the round-of-32 contest. Hussamuddin will take on fourth-seeded Russian Savvin Eduard on Sunday.

Naveen had no problems in thrashing a much-shorter rival, Jeong. Ashish Chaudhary (80kg) bowed out after losing to Cuban Arlen Lopez 2-5.

Katherine Sciver-Brunt retires from international cricket

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Katherine Sciver-Brunt retired from international cricket on Friday after a superb 19-year career in which she took more wickets than any other woman for England.

Sciver-Brunt, who made her international debut in 2004, claimed 335 wickets in 267 appearances for England. Only Jhulan Goswami (355) has more dismissals than Sciver-Brunt in all women's international formats.

The fast bowler helped England's women to three Ashes series victories and three World Cup wins, two coming in ODIs and one in T20s. Sciver-Brunt, 37, quit playing Tests last year and also stepped away from ODIs.

Alcaraz celebrates his birthday in style

MADRID OPEN

Associated Press
MADRID

Carlos Alcaraz celebrated his 20th birthday on Friday by returning to the Madrid Open final after beating Borna Coric 6-4, 6-3. The Spaniard's 117th win in his first 150 Tour matches eclipsed John McEnroe's record (113).

Jan-Lennard Struff thought he was done at the Madrid Open when he lost to Aslan Karatsev in the final round of qualifying last week.

Then he got an unexpected spot in the tournament's main draw as the so-called lucky loser and has really made it count, Lucky loser Jan-Lennard Struff continued his run, shocking fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6(5), 5-7, 6-3 on Thursday.

Women's No. 1 Iga Swiatek and No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka both won their semifinals and will meet for the title on Saturday.

Struff. REUTERS

The results: Men: Semifinals: Alcaraz bt Coric 6-4, 6-3.

Quarterfinals: Struff bt Tsitsipas 7-6(5), 5-7, 6-3.

Women: Semifinals: Sabalenka bt Sakkari 6-4, 6-1; Swiatek bt Kudermetova 6-1, 6-1.

Overwhelming response for TCS 10K

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Over 27,000 participants have signed up for the 15th edition of the World Athletics Gold Label TCS World 10K Bengaluru, organisers announced here on Friday.

All categories – Open 10k, majja run, senior citizens run and champions with disability – are oversubscribed, it was announced at an event here.

Ethiopia's Birhanu Legese and Kenya's Irine Cheptai, the women's defending champion, are among the top Elite field names in the $210,000 prize money race.

Multiple-time Olympic and World 400m champion Sanya Richards-Ross will serve as the International Event Ambassador. Prasidh Krishna, the Indian event ambassador, was present at the event. The race will be flagged off at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on May 21.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Suvik sizzles for EISB

Suvik's all-round effort (90 & 3/14) helped EISB beat School of Cricket by 80 runs in the Tiger Cup under-14 cricket tournament here on Friday.
The scores:
EISB 176/3 in 27 overs (Suvik 90, Bryan Thomas 39) bt School of Cricket 96 in 25.4 overs (Yadhu Narayanan 28, Saiteja Thokala 4/13, Suvik 3/14).
CCE 138/5 in 30 overs (Tanshh Krishna 41, Mohammed Umair 26, Harshit 3/15) bt Panthers Cricket Academy 125/7 in 30 overs (Samarth Srikant 34).

Ankit does the 'trick as Guru HC sets up final against GCCP

Ankit Goud scored a hat-trick as Guru HC beat Bellary HC 7-3 to enter the final of the Travancore Cup hockey tournament here on Friday. In the summit clash, Guru will meet Greater Chennai City Police (GCCP), which pipped Bengaluru Blues HC 1-0.
The results (semifinals): Guru HC 7 (Deepak 21, Jeswanth 26, 59, Ankit Goud 32, 41, 53, Dharamveer 36) bt Bellary HC 3 (Abhishek 17, Bharath Kumar 24, Arjun Reddy 42); Greater Chennai City Police 1 (Arunachalam 13) bt Bengaluru Blues Hockey Club 0.

Harsha shines in Beagles BC's narrow victory

Harsha top-scored with 24 points as Beagles BC overcame Nationals BC Mysore 68-65 in the boys' pre-quarterfinals at the State under-16 basketball championship here on Friday.
Among girls, Sharvani accounted for 26 points as All Star Academy Mysore defeated MNK Rao Park BC 50-28.

Advani enters the pre-quarterfinals

Pankaj Advani beat Sandeep Gulati 4-1 (81-01, 34-72, 76(72)-24, 120(120)-08, 65-20) in the round of 32 at the Bangalore Snooker Academy All India Open Championship being held here.

Not a good sign: According to Shastri, bilateral cricket, especially ODIs, will take a hit. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

'With T20 leagues on the rise, cricket going football's way'

Shastri says a trend has already started where many internationals are preferring club over country and admits he won't be surprised to see the shortest format grow in the time to come

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former India coach Ravi Shastri believes the mushrooming T20 leagues around the world will eventually hurt bilateral cricket, especially the ODI format, with the franchises inclined towards handing long-term contract to players.

Shastri insisted that cricket is slowly going football's way and in future the players would only be interested in playing world events.

"I have always said that the bilateral cricket will suffer, there is no question about that. With the leagues spreading around the world, it's going to go the football way," Shastri was quoted by *ESPNcricinfo*.

"The teams will assemble just before the World Cup, they play a little bit of bilateral, clubs will release the players and you play the mega World Cup. So it's going to go that way in the long run whether you like it or not." He added: "I don't feel bad at all.

"One of the faculties of the game will suffer. I think it will be 50-over cricket."

A trend has already started where many international cricketers are preferring club over country. And Shastri admitted that he won't be surprised to see it grow in the time to come.

Opportunity

"Look at the volume of people in this country, we are 1.4 billion, and only 11 can play for India. What will the others do? They have an opportunity to play white-ball cricket, it's their strength, globally, across different franchises in the world. Grab that opportunity. It's common sense, it's their living. It's their income. Nobody will be able to deprive them of this. They (players) are not contracted by BCCI. What stops them going?

"Nothing like getting exposure. How much do they want to protect their own league (IPL)? You've got to see where they come from, and rightly so. This is our league and to protect this league is paramount as far as our interest goes. But by letting certain players go, it's not going to affect the league in any way."

F1 needs to 'do better' to avoid boring fans: Hamilton

Agence France-Presse
MIAMI GARDENS

Seven-time Formula One World champion Lewis Hamilton says the sport must "do better" to create tighter competition amid fears that Red Bull's domination could result in boredom.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen, winner of the past two championships, leads the driver's standings after splitting the opening four races of the season with teammate Sergio Perez.

Arriving for Sunday's Miami Grand Prix, drivers spoke openly about how far ahead Red Bull's cars were of the rest of the field with Ferrari.

Hamilton was asked on Wednesday if there was a danger of American fans losing interest in Formula One given the total domination of one team and the Mercedes driver said while he still found excitement, he understood the concerns.

"It's not boring for me," he said. "I'm challenged every single day trying to get back to the front. So, it's definitely not boring from my perspective. But as a racing fan watching, I can understand.

Competition

"Because there's not as much competition as they're perhaps used to with NFL and with NBA at the moment. That's not my doing. I mean, we need to do better, I think, as a sport.

"They have already tried to bring the teams closer, but it never seems to work. All I can say is that we're working as hard as we can to close it up and get back to that. Give them some more excitement."

Time to shift gears: Hamilton said while he still found excitement, he understood the concerns from the fans' perspective. AFP

> I'm challenged every single day trying to get back to the front. So, it's definitely not boring from my perspective

In three of the four races this season, Red Bull has taken the top two places on the podium, with Hamilton's second place in Australia the only exception.

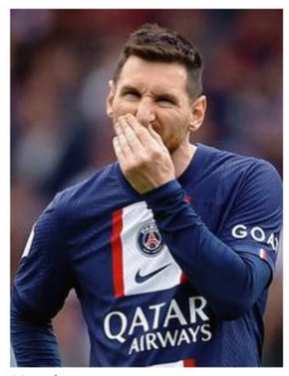
Hamilton's Mercedes teammate George Russell suggested that fans might want to focus not on the race for the winner but on the contest between the best of the rest.

"I think the competition we've got at the moment with Ferrari and Aston Martin, every race we go to is really close between us in qualifying and the pace is really close in the race," he said.

"If that was a fight for the victory, it would probably be one of the most exciting seasons we have seen in a long, long time and it is obviously just a shame that there's two more cars well out in front So, forget about those two and just watch from (position) P3, it may be a bit more exciting."

But Russell conceded the problem was real and a difficult one for Formula One to deal with.

"It is challenging," Russell said. "In no sport do you want to see somebody dominate and you want to have competition and that's what we all want in an ideal world. You have 20 drivers and 10 teams all capable of winning every single race if you do the right job."



Messi. REUTERS

Messi and PSG will talk after suspension, says Galtier

Associated Press
PARIS

Lionel Messi and Paris Saint-Germain will have discussions about the player's immediate future with the club when he returns from suspension, coach Christophe Galtier said on Friday.

The World Cup champion was suspended by PSG this week after he skipped practice to make a promotional trip to Saudi Arabia.

Messi is not expected to extend his contract, and there are only five games remaining this season.

Galtier was asked at a news conference if he'll be able to count on the seven-time *Ballon d'Or* winner returning to the field after the suspension.

"We'll see when Leo returns what will happen," Galtier said.

"Obviously, there will be discussions with the entire club but also with Leo, who is the primary person involved."

Galtier said the club told him that Messi had been suspended, and he declined to say if he endorsed the decision.

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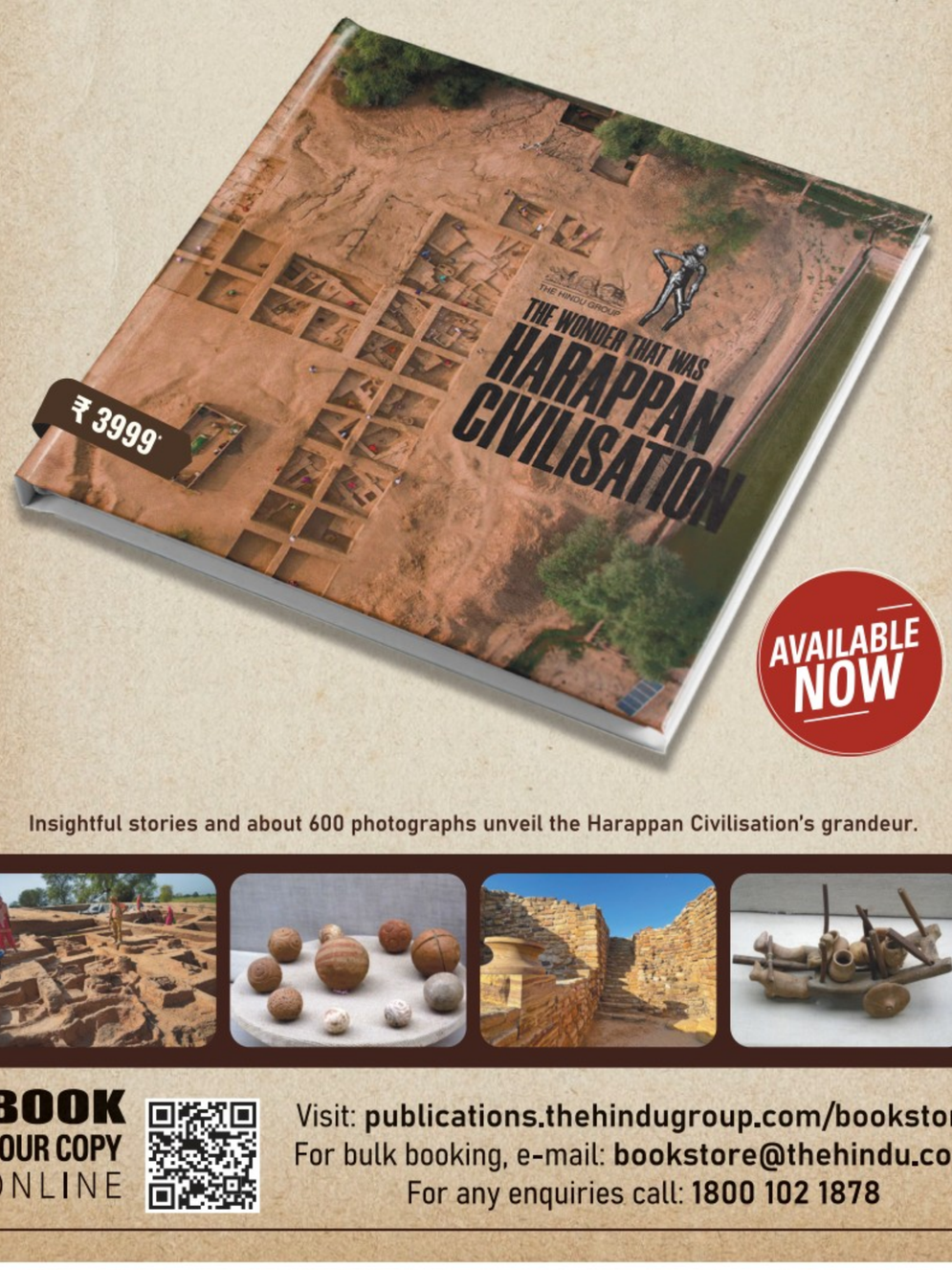

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Terms and Conditions Apply. *Ex-Showroom price for base variant. **The range figure is based on internal test at ARAI under standard test conditions. Actual performance figures may differ in conditions other than test conditions. #Running cost calculated over 1000 km per month as applicable in Delhi NCR. ###Top variant features. ~i-Smart services are complementary for 1 year with the purchase of a new MG that hosts the i-smart technology. The services are activated on the date of delivery and validity period of services will commence from such date. 2GB Data/Month free for 1 year from date of delivery. After the consumption of 2GB within a month customer needs to recharge to continue data related services. ^The warranty on 12V battery and tyres is valid for 1 year. ^^For first 3 scheduled services. ##Contact your nearest MG dealer for specific package details. ^^^This includes: the charging box, feasibility of the site, cabling at the location up to 100m, installation and demo of the charging box done through vendors ECB and Allianz. Any kind of civil work is not included (wall construction, underground work etc.).

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